Daily Report

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Bosnian Peace Talks Continue in Geneva

Croat-Muslim Unification Proposed

AU0608201493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Report by Nada Al-Isa from Geneva]

[Excerpt] Two sessions of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency have been held in Geneva prior to this dispatch. At these sessions two letters were written and sent to the UN Security Council and Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman. The contents of both letters concern the future constitution of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Let us listen first to the letter to the UN Security Council:

After consultations and with the support of all the parliamentary opposition parties, the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina demands that the UN Security Council calls an immediate session at which a stance would be taken regarding the following:

During the Geneva talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the letter recalls, we in principle embraced the proposed constitutional agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina as an union of republics, with the demand for a clear reaffirmation of the status of the union as a sovereign and internationally recognized state with clearly specified continuity and UN membership. Since the [word indistinct] negotiations reached a phase in which maps and a partitioning of the territory were being discussed, we were faced with the fact that the principles and criteria for the partitioning into three republics were ambiguous. [Words indistinct] proposals are mutually exclusive and the Serbian aggressor insists on a partitioning that basically sets out from the position of a fait accompli and conquered territories. Military threats and the continuation of the war are being used as the key arguments for the imposition of solutions. By this, all UN resolutions, EC decisions, and especially the principles of the London conference, are being negated and in practice rejected. Genocide is sanctioned by this, while aggression is rewarded. Bosnia-Herzegovina has been placed in a position of a victim that should accept the humiliating conditions in order to restore peace. This particularly refers to the future status of Sarajevo, which [words indistinct] wish to divide [words indistinct] and by this condemn the city to a silent death.

For this reason we demand that the UN Security Council takes a clear position on the violation of the principles of the London conference, offers personal guarantees for its implementation, and safeguards the preconditions for the restoration of peace and democratic order in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reads the letter of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency to the UN Security Council.

We have already said that the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency also sent a letter to Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman. We will convey the entire letter:

Bearing in mind the that the Croatian and the Muslim nations are interwoven in a large part of Bosnia-Herzegovina and that it is not possible to make [words indistinct] solution between these two nations, we propose, the letter says, the following:

The (?entire) territory that would belong to the Bosnian and the Croatian republic within the future Union of Bosnia-Herzegovina, that is, the territory from Neum on the coast to Orasje and Brcko on the Sava, would remain one territory. The Muslims and the Croats on this territory would enjoy equal representation, that is, parity in all most important central authorities, such as the Presidency, the government, the supreme court, and so forth, as well as on the General Staff of a united Croatian Defense Council and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. The participation in the communal authorities would be proportional. Full cultural autonomy of the ethnic communities would be guaranteed. Schools, television and radio, and suchlike could be partially joint and partially separate. The following would be achieved by this: The friction would stop instantly, while the increasing deterioration of relations between the two ethnic communities and the two states would be halted. This would facilitate the joint exploitation of important capacities and resources in central Bosnia and in the Neretva River valley, in which both nations have vital interests and which would otherwise be a cause for continued clashes and violence. Communications would be opened again and the distribution of foreign aid would commence. Starvation would be ended immediately, while all displaced citizens could immediately start returning to their homes. The Croatian nation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and [words indistinct] of the territory that were historically populated by it. Judging by the current plan, the Croatian [words indistinct] western Herzegovina and small parts of central Bosnia and Bosnian Sava Basin. The Bosnian Republic would gain [words indistinct] along the Sava and the sea and would definitely have better conditions to receive aid and rebuild the country. Only one aggressor would be exposed again, who, by continuing to attack Croatian towns and installations in Maslenica and Zemunik, demonstrates that he will not give up. Croatia would avoid the economic and political difficulties on the domestic and international level that are growing and are caused by the disturbed relations with the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Naturally, all this assumes the departure of the people on both sides who are responsible for the present state of relations.

In short, there are many good reasons fully to overcome this unnatural and artificially provoked conflict between two nations that is gradually spreading to the two states, the letter concludes—signed by President Alija Izetbegovic—that Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency sent to Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman regarding the future constitution of the union of Bosnia-Herzegovina republics. [passage omitted]

Croats Reject Muslim Proposal

LD0808130493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Today is marked by a diplomatic lull at the Geneva negotiations on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Croat members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency do not share Alija Izetbegovic's views expounded in his letter of yesterday to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, and are not of the same opinion regarding the Muslim proposal on the unification of the future Bosnian and [Bosnian] Croat republics within the Bosnia-Herzegovina union. The Muslim proposal is unacceptable to the Croatian members of the Bosnian Presidency. This is clarified by [Croatian member of the Presidency] Miro Lasic in a statement to Croatian Radio.

Historical experience warns that, in all cases so far, every agreement has proved to be to the detriment of the Croats who, Lasic believes, have always been paying someone else's bills. It would be extremely difficult to establish normal relations in the envisaged alliance after all the horrendous conflicts and massacres in central Bosnia. However, Lasic adds, the two republics will have to cooperate very closely in many areas. There will be possibilities for extensive mutual cooperation and integration.

At this particular moment, all efforts should be geared toward ending the war as soon as possible and signing a peace accord that would be implemented immediately. Any delay will result in more suffering and new casualties—our task is to prevent this and secure living conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina that will be as close to normal as possible, Miro Lasic said.

Sarajevo Radio on Talks

AU0908100793 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Report by Nada al-Isa]

[Text] The resumption of the peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina is expected in Geneva today. However, the time has not been fixed yet. News from Bosnia-Herzegovina is expected as to whether the aggressor is withdrawing from Mt. Igman and Mt. Bjelasnica. In any case, difficult talks are to be expected, particularly regarding the maps of the future Bosnia-Herzegovina. Let me repeat that, for the Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation, the Croat-Serb map is unacceptable because—as President Izetbegovic said—it has a lot of deficiencies, the greatest being that the largest sites of genocide [words indistinct] would remain in the hands of those who carried out the genocide. That is why this would literally be a reward for the aggressor for crimes committed [words indistinct]. This is what President Izetbegovic said in one of his statements here in Geneva.

A letter has arrived in Geneva that was addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, mediators Owen and Stoltenberg, and EC chairmen Willy Claes. The parties that signed are the Croatian Peasant Party [HSS] for Bosnia-Herzegovina [words indistinct], the Sarajevo branch of the Croatian Democratic Community [HDZ], and the Croat cultural society Napredak. Their message is: the Croats of Bosnia-Herzegovina want a unitary Bosnia-Herzegovina, without any ethnic divisions. We have shown this in the referendum, and by defending the country from the aggressor. We believe—says the letter—that all that is important for the position of the Croatian people in Bosnia-Herzegovina has not been taken into account in Geneva. That is why we request that, in all negotiations and future activities, facts and our legitimate requests [words indistinct] be taken into account. The following are the requests and facts:

[Words indistinct] in western Herzegovina and in Posavina, which are demographically, culturally, and historically predominantly Croatian areas. In Bosnia-Herzegovina there are [words indistinct] Croats, of which 30,000 (?live) in Bosnia, while 222,000 live in Herzegovina. The Croatian spiritual, cultural, [word indistinct], and economic potential is (?present) in Sarajevo and other cities. The Croats of Bosnia-Herzegovina are (?in favor) of equal rights for all citizens, without any ethnic divisions. [Words indistinct] Although the facts and the situation on the ground are different—which we acknowledge—we still want our interests to be protected. Croats from Sarajevo and other cities, and throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina are worried by the [word indistinct] of the content of the Geneva negotiations, because the Croats are [words indistinct] and the negotiations are taking a different turn.

We demand peace immediately and without any prior conditions. A political agreement that will ensure an equal existence for all citizens, including the Croats and their homes, the return of refugees and exiled persons, the removal of all reasons and possibilities of this [word indistinct], the free passage of people of all nationalities and goods, the guarantee of all citizens' and human rights in compliance with international norms, the removal of a possible [words indistinct], and that the city of Sarajevo, in its historical region, should be given a special status. This is the only way for it to represent the capital of the republic.

In the name of the Croats, we ask for your help and support [words indistinct], ends the letter addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, cochairmen Owen and Stoltenberg, and EC chairman Willy Claes, which was written by the HSS of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the HDZ Sarajevo branch, and the Croatian cultural society Napredak. The letter was sent to Mr. Izetbegovic in Geneva and to the Croat President Tudjman in Zagreb. This was Nada al-Isa reporting from Geneva for Radio Television Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Muslims Seek Over 50 Percent

LD0808152493 Mostar Croatian Radio Herceg-Bosna in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] In its maps, which have finally emerged, the Muslim side led by Alija Izetbegovic is seeking more

than 50 percent of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including Mostar, an outlet to the sea at Ploce, and corridors linking this part of the state to Muslim areas.

According to this plan, Croats would be left only western Herzegovina with its capital, Livno, and the little strip of territory of Bosnian Posavina, which would not have any corridor linking it [to other Croat-held territory].

Serb-Croat Demarcation Discussed

LD0808151593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1212 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Geneva, 8 Aug (TANJUG)—The process of demarcation between the Serbs and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina should begin soon, TANJUG has learned from circles taking part in the Geneva talks on Bosnia.

Groups of experts have been specifically formed for this purpose and are expected to meet in Njivice near Herceg-Novi next week.

The main task of the groups of experts is to carry out preparations for the territorial separation of nondisputed areas between Serbs and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Each team of experts will include an ethnographer, a cartographer, and a military official.

It is expected that this will initiate a process of normalizing relations between the Bosnian Serbs and Croats.

The disputed territories in Posavina and the Dubrovnik hinterland will be discussed by the two sides at a later date.

In the Posavina region, the Serb side has asked for Bosanski Brod and is ready to give Kupres in return. The Croats are asking for Odzak and the centre of Jajce, while the industrial zone in that town would go to the Serbs.

The Serb side in the negotiations has requested a 10 km-long stretch of land from Prevlaka to Cavtat as an outlet to the sea.

Izetbegovic Denounces Talks

AU0708165993 Paris AFP in English 1643 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Zagreb, Aug 7 (AFP)—President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina called Saturday for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council after accusing the Geneva conference of rewarding Serb aggression, official Bosnian sources here said.

The Geneva negotiations "sanction genocide and reward aggression while making Bosnia the victim," Izetbegovic said in a letter dated August 6 and sent to the current U.N. Security Council president Madeleine Albright.

In the letter, released by the Bosnian Embassy here, Izetbegovic warned that under the settlement being worked out with U.N. and European Community mediation in Geneva, Sarajevo would be "divided, isolated and sentenced to slow annihilation."

He said Bosnia's Serbs were dictating the division of the former Yugoslav republic on the basis of "faits accomplis" resulting from "brutal military conquest."

"Threats of further military action and the continuation of war are being used as the key arguments to impose solutions," he added.

The Bosnian president advocated his own solution for Sarajevo which would open the city to all Bosnian citizens—Moslems, Serbs and Croats.

The plan would forsee Sarajevo's ten boroughs being governed on the basis of proportional representation, although the U.N. peacekeeping force would initially maintain control.

Earlier Saturday Izetbegovic joined mourners at the funeral of Belgium's King Baudouin in Brussels, but was reported to be returning to Geneva for the next round of talks beginning Monday.

Krajisnik: Talks at 'Critical Stage'

LD0808160593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1538 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Kragujevac, Aug 8 (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, a leader of Bosnian Serbs, said on Sunday [8 August] that the Geneva talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) had reached their most critical stage in which an adverse turnabout was possible in case of a military intervention against the local Serbs.

Krajisnik told Radio Kragujevac (central Serbia) in an interview that the U.S. and certain western countries were strongly influencing and closely siding with Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic towards a turnabout in the situation after an accord was reached to set up a union of three republics in the BiH.

Krajisnik explained that this turnabout was expected from a military intervention supposed to make Moslems successful politically instead of defeated militarily. Or, the raiding of Serb positions, said he, might even make them military winners.

Krajisnik, who is speaker of the parliament of the Serb republic (S.R.), the state of Serbs in the BiH, said that the ultimate goal of this action was to merge the entire BiH with the West's sphere of interest. The protagonist of this policy is Izetbegovic.

Krajisnik stressed that the Serb side in the BiH has done all to avert the American threat of a military intervention.

As for an alleged Serb blockade of Sarajevo, Krajisnik pointed out that the whole world would be aware that those who had blocked the capital of this ex-Yugoslav republics were the Moslems who imposed a ban on free circulation of people and their entering or leaving the city.

He recalled that this assessment had been confirmed also by the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] commander in the BiH, the British Brigadier General Vere Hayes.

"It is the Moslems in fact who are strangling Sarajevo. What we have proposed is to have our forces, in token of good will, pulled back from Mounts Bjelasnica and Igman (overlooking Sarajevo). We have also suggested a plan to be drawn up about opening Sarajevo completely," Krajisnik underscored.

NATO Pilots Step Up Patrols Over Bosnia

AU0508174493 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Brussels, Aug 5 (AFP) - NATO's governing body is to reconvene to debate whether to launch air strikes against Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina to lift the siege of Sarajevo and other U.N.-protected areas, a spokesman said Thursday [5 August].

Ambassadors of the North Atlantic Council, comprising representatives of the 16 NATO member countries, are due to meet Monday afternoon at the organisation's headquarters here, the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Options for military intervention outlined by NATO's Europe allied command are to be considered Friday by member countries' chiefs of staff, an informed source in Brussels said.

NATO's Military Committee will then study the options Saturday before passing its findings to ambassadors for the Monday meeting, the source said.

The news came after NATO pilots stepped up the frequency of training flights in Bosnia-Herzegovina airspace, NATO sources said Thursday.

The flights, which have steadily increased in number over the last few days, are being carried out to enable pilots deployed to cover U.N. ground operations to familiarise themselves with the terrain, the source said.

"The flights are being carried out in an unprovocative manner... They have nothing to do with possible air strikes," the source added. [passage omitted]

Serbian Border Guards Wound Two in Tropoje

AU0608153993 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Ilir Bucpapaj telephone report from Tropoje]

[Text] Serbian border guards have again provoked incidents on the border with Albania. Let us listen to a telephone report that we just received from Tropoje:

[Bucpapaj] In the village of Luge i Zi in the Tropoje district, in the area of the border pyramid F7 FSN, at 1130 [0930 GMT] in a [words indistinct] place, Serbian military forces fired automatic weapons in the direction of the border guards and the village inhabitants.

As a consequence, a soldier named Ali Qeram Shehu, born in 1975, a resident of the village of Tomin in the Diber district, was hit in the chest. Dalip Demush Ferizaj, born in 1969, a resident of the village of Luge i Zi, was also hit. The firing occurred in an area about 60 meters inside Albanian territory without warning. At first, Ali Qeram Shehu was hit, and he was left unconscious at his observation point. Dalip Demush Ferizaj approached to help him, but he was found unconscious and had [words indistinct] deep in our land. He was hit twice, in the waist and in the left leg.

Both were sent to Bajram Curri Hospital. After first aid was administered by the medical team at the city hospital, their condition was described as serious, particularly that of Ali, who is to be immediately sent to Tirana Military Hospital.

Serbian Guards Wound Soldier

AU0608193693 Tirana ATA in English 1806 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Tirana, August 6 (ATA)—[Passage omitted] In the same area, 100-120 meters within Albanian state border, at 1530 hrs. [1330 GMT], Serbian soldiers opened fire against the Albanian patrol team and gravely wounded an Albanian soldier. This is considered an escalation of aggression. For these incidents, representatives of the EC have been informed and they have gone to see the situation in the spot.

Defense Ministry Protests

AU0608205593 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 2000 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Excerpts] A Defense Ministry spokesman reports that, as you have been informed by Bajram Curri television, two serious and ugly incidents have occurred at our state border with former Yugoslavia in the series of incidents, provocations, and murders. [passage omitted]

The Defense Ministry states that these serious incidents on our state border caused by the Serbian forces are not accidental, but are aimed at increasing tension in the region, destabilizing the situation, and inciting new conflicts. They constitute a serious violation of our country's sovereignty.

The Defense Ministry spokesman concludes that these actions are a new criminal escalation by the Serbian chauvinists, intended to lead to armed conflict.

We draw the attention of all international institutions and the world public to react immediately against this new escalation of Serbian actions against Albania. The authors of these bloody and criminal acts will bear full responsibility for the consequences that result from these developments.

Serreqi Protests to UN

AU0808135093 Tirana ATA in English 0824 GMT 8 Aug 93

[" 'We Demand Measures Which Will Force Serbia To Stop Dangerous Military Provocations'—Letter of the Albanian Foreign Minister, Alfred Serreqi to Ms. Madeleine Albright, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Chairwoman of the UN Security Council"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, August 8 (ATA)—"I am addressing you this very urgent letter to inform of a new aggravation of tension in the Albanian-Yugoslav border, which [words indistinct] very dangerous consequences for a possible extension of the war in the Balkans' south. On August 6, the Serbian military forces undertook two successive provocations, opening fire in the direction of the Albanian territory on the Albanian border forces and the inhabitants of a border village. Consequently, a 20 year soldier was killed, another 20 year soldier and a 26 peasant have been gravely wounded.

"The Serbian military provocations against Albanian border forces and the innocent Albanian inhabitants occur right after the decision of the Belgrade government, which the whole world denounced, to oust the CSCE observers from Kosova. The Albanian Government warned then that the ousting of the mission of the CSCE observers would lead to an intensification of tension and extension of the Serbian strategy of war in Kosova and broader. After this arbitrary decision of Belgrade, two dangerous phenomena have come into evidence: severe escalation of repression and terror in Kosova, with over 2 million Albanians living in it and grave military incidents and provocations in the border with Albania.

"The aim of Serbia to create tensions and new war beds for a broader conflagration in the Balkans, is clear. The severe provocations are a clear expression of the war policy of Belgrade government. Opening fire on and wounding of Albanian soldiers and inhabitants in the Albanian territory is nothing but a deliberate provocation. It was preceded by an alleged note of protest on supposedly former incidents by the Albanian party, which was turned down by the Albanian Government and by the mission of the EC observers.

"Considering that the aggravation of the dangerous situation in the Albanian-Yugoslav border is a concern for the UN Security Council and all other international organizations, considering that escalation of tension in Kosova and in the border with Albania is an expression of the policy of war Serbia is pursuing at a time when world diplomacy is making all efforts to prevent it, we deem it necessary, Honoured Excellency, to ask for :

"1. An urgent meeting of the Security Council to examine the situation created by Serbia in the border with Albania and adoption of measures which will force Serbia to stop dangerous military provocations.

"2. An immediate intervention of the Security Council sending, as soon as possible, its observers' missions in the border with Serbia and in Kosova.

"I voice my conviction that through your activity and that of the Security Council, you will value the emergency for the situation created and will take necessary measures to prevent the flames of war to spread in the Balkans."

Ministry Clarifies Serreqi Letter

AU0908095493 Tirana ATA in English 0808 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tirana, August 9 (ATA)—Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi sent a letter to the chairwoman of the UN Security Council, Madalene Albright on August 6, expressing the concern of Albanian Government about the events in northern border of Albania, after criminal incidents provoked by Serbian forces. Regarding this letter, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry explains:

"Since the second demand in the letter, through which immediate mediation of the Security Council is asked for the reinstallation of the CSCE observation missions," has been misunderstood and misinterpreted by some world mass media, we explain that this demand does not mean installation of CSCE mission in the territory of Albania, because an observation mission of the European Community is long since operating in Albania, but immediate reestablishment of CSCE observation mission in the territory of Kosova and along its border with Albania to monitor the level of militarization of the border by the Serbian

Korce Residents Prevent Socialist Rally

AU0608194993 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Donika Pele telephone report from Korce]

[Text] At 1800 on Wednesday in the square near Skenderbeu Stadium in Korce City, the Managing Committee of the Socialist Party branch for the Korce district planned to hold a rally to protest the violation of opposition rights and defend the chairman of the party, Fatos Nano.

At the entrance to Skenderbeu Stadium, the organizers of the rally were received with clamorous shouts by hundreds of city residents. At 1800, when the rally was expected to start, a large group of people gathered in front of the tribune. With the shouts and slogans—Down with Fatos Nano; Nano is a thief; Korce does not accept communism; Democracy will win; We support the democratic government—the gathered people turned the situation into a powerful democratic demonstration.

At the time when the rally was expected to start, anti-communist shouting continued in the square. The group of people who were waiting for the rally to begin found it impossible to organize and realize the planned event.

The shouts and slogans, which supported the president, government, and democratic reform, continued for more than 30 minutes. Facing this situation of clamorous shouting and songs, 1900 marked the failure of this rally.

Ministry Spokesman on Foreign Relations

AU0608171693 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Arben Karapici report]

[Text] [Announcer] Genuine relations with our neighbors continue to remain the main concern of our country, which is wisely following the policy of preserving peace, stability, and calm in the turbulent Balkan region. How are our neighbors reacting to this stance? The following report by our correspondent Arben Karapici focuses on a regular news conference that was held at the Foreign Ministry today:

[Karapici] While bilateral relations with Italy are showing fruitful developments with every passing day, the same cannot be said for the other neighbors. Making this assessment, Mr. Ramazan Hysa, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, handed to the reporters present an original document of the EC's monitoring mission to a regional center of Albania. The document with 12 stars, the symbol of United Europe, states that the EC has been acquainted with the Serbian note of protest and cannot comment on points 1 or 3, because this mission was not present at the time in question or in the region that the Belgrade's Foreign Ministry note mentions. The EC document does, howver, reject point 2 of the Serbian note as unacceptable. The EC's official reaction, which I cite, states that the team of observers was present in the area mentioned in point 2 of the Serbian note and declares that the situation in that area did not correspond to what was stated by the Serbian side. On the contrary, the situation had been very quiet and the EC observing team had not been armed.

Rejecting the falsehoods in the Serbian note, also confirmed by official EC reaction, the Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters that it is actually Belgrade that has systematically provoked and continues to provoke serious incidents on the border with Albania. Mr. Hysa stressed that our country is showing exemplary patience

in trying to extinguish every conflict that threatens to escalate the present crisis to the edge of a Balkan war.

Although there have been several signs that the Foreign Ministry spokesman considered positive, relations of Albania and Greece, their oldest Balkan neighbor, are still icy. It seems as if Athens wants to retreat from the anti-Albanian campaign. However, it was stated at today's news conference that Tirana is waiting for clear signals that it will not take the road of impositions and even less that of pressures. Our country is expecting a normalization of relations with Greece, but of course, beyond the six points of the ultimatum statement by the Greek prime minister, Mr. Hysa said.

Asked for his opinion on the statement by the Greek PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] general secretary, published in ZERI I POPULLIT today, the spokesman said that this is not a statement by a party in power. However, the statement by Cohaxopullos [as heard] in defense of Fatos Nano was extensively interpreted as flagrant interference by PASOK in Albania's internal affairs. Apart from this, the statement was considered as pressure and a threat to isolate Albania from the international community. The Greek PASOK is free to support Fatos Nano, but in no way can it lecture the democratic government and President Berisha on what stance Albanian justice should take toward those who are charged with corruption, one of the observers present in the conference said.

At the Foreign Ministry, reporters were informed about the meeting that Mr. Serreqi held yesterday with Mr. Muharrem Zejnullahu, charge d'affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Albania. According to what Eqerem Meta, director of the First Directorate, said, Albania agrees to accept Bosnian refugees in a limited number and for a limited time, that is, until the solution of the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Where these Bosnian refugees will live has not yet been determined, Meta asserted, and added that their stay in Albania will be financed by Arab countries.

Socialist Party Protests 'Revanchism'

AU0908075393 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 28 Jul 93 pp 1, 4

[Statement by the Socialist Party General Management Committee and Parliamentary Group issued in Tirana on 27 July: "No to Revanchism, No to Dictatorship"]

[Text] On 26 July 1993, after an unscrupulous political campaign against the opposition party and its leader Fatos Nano organized by a revanchist party-government clan of the Democratic Party [PD] and after illegal and antidemocratic pressure on the organs of justice, a demand has been formulated for the removal of the immunity of the deputy Fatos Nano. After Idajet Beqiri, this is the second case of a party chairman being harassed by the political police and courts of a state with openly totalitarian and neodictatorial characteristics, while the PD's official press has begun to issue threats against other political opponents. The "witch hunt" in Albania has begun from the top, in order to wage terror against the broad working masses at a time of deep political, economic, and social crisis and the tragic disillusion of the people faced with the mafia-style violation of democracy by collaborators and the spawn of collaborators with fascism and the dictatorship.

Alush Dragoshi's shameful and irresponsible step marks the unconditional capitulation of the official organs of justice at the feet of the Ballist-fascist state. It began with the illegal dismissal of Procurator-General Maksim Haxhia, the frontal assault on the independence of the judiciary, party-parliamentary anathemas against judicial dignity, the sacking of dozens of lawyers, and outright threats of imprisonment against jurists or lawyers who obeyed their professional consciences and not the political and judicial drivel of the PD-ite rulers. This paralysis of the judiciary is extremely dangerous for the destiny of the country and of democracy. It paves the way for a series of political trials that will even use the laws of the dictatorship of will to devise new articles and paragraphs, ominous for the fate of the people as a whole and the individual in particular.

The frontal assault on the Socialist Party [PSSh], according to the scenarios and schemes devised in parliamentary boxes and presidential and government antechambers, began long ago. It intensified particularly after the PSSh's announcement of its demand for the government's resignation and for new parliamentary elections. The PD chiefs see themselves that they are lost, and have therefore become more aggressive than ever. The Ballist-tribal chief-fascist clan of Dosti, Toma, Kalakula, Cela, Butka, etc., supported by criminals of the Gjonmarkaj type and other self-confessed murderers, and even the state television, after entirely usurping the PD, have exploited the power that the people gave to this party in the name of democracy in order to create a vindictive, revanchist police state, plundering the national wealth created by the people's sweat and their many sacrifices. PD chairman Selami, this stage prop from the time of the dictatorship, wander through Albania with carrots and sticks, openly threatening the opposition electorate and their representatives. President Berisha, standing on his "blue" rostrum, conducts and observes how the rule of law and democracy are being destroyed, while he receives plaudits and prizes from the hidden auditoria he serves so loyaliy. In his blind loyalty, he forgets that he will very soon answer to the nation and the people for this establishment of a Ballist-fascist state in Albania and the division and minimalization of the national cause.

The assault against the PSSh is not aimed against it alone and its supporters, but against all the opposition forces that have striven for genuine democracy based on democratic law and the Constitution. It is aimed against the political pluralism that Albania managed to establish with great sacrifice. It is aimed against real intellectual

opposition thinking, against the union of the most realistic forces that would plan the country's development without dishonest political fighting, social conflicts, and human privations.

The situation that has been created is extremely dangerous. It threatens everything in Albania, our aspirations for justice, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, our work and a peaceful life for the people, and the peace, understanding, and national unity that is so necessary today when not only the national cause but the territorial integrity of the republic are threatened to the point of being sold at auction. Anyone with the slightest civil conscience realizes today, and will realize all the more tomorrow, which forces and which individuals reduced the democratic struggle and democratic ideals in a revanchist frenzy, and threw them into the ditch of the nation's and people's enemies.

We members of the PSSh General Management Committee and its parliamentary group, aware of the justice of our stands so far and convinced of the support of hundreds of thousands of people, declare that we will continue an unceasing struggle against rightist political revanchism and in the defense of the principles and ideals of genuine democracy. We see new parliamentary elections as the only way to establish the political equilibrium that is so necessary in the transition period. We will demand that Albanian must become a state with a constitution in order to pave the way for the rule of law and functioning democratic institutions and mechanisms. We will struggle to reduce the social costs of the economic reform that fall mainly on the masses of the people. We will be able to defend human rights and freedoms and the dignity of the PSSh and its chairman Fatos Nano.

We call on all honest people and genuine democrats throughout Albania, intellectuals, workers, veterans, young people, and women of Albania to respond with a resounding "no" to the new dictatorship, to say "no" to revanchism, and "no" to the assassins and persecutors of democracy.

If the legislative, executive, and judicial powers continue to act according to the instructions and dictates of political revanchists, we will also consider the following measures:

1. A summons for action by the whole people, in a democratic way, to demand new parliamentary and local elections.

2. The final withdrawal of our parliamentary group from the People's Assembly.

3. A total boycott of local government by our representatives.

UNPROFOR General Holds Press Conference

AU0708145693 Tirana ATA in English 0833 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Tirana, August 7 (ATA)—The Ministry of Defence held a press conference on August 6 on occasion of the visit in Albania of the commander of UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Forces] in Skopje, General Thomson. Present were radio television reporters, together with those of ATA, military press organs, and other news services. The press conference was opened by the director of Foreign Relations Department at the Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant Colonel Sali Diga. The commander of the "Blue Helmets" said that his mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was to observe border situation and to prevent conflict. General Thomson said that he thought that the UN presence in Macedonia was the best way to preserve peace and stability in region. Answering questions from the reporters, General Thomson said he had come to Albania to inform the Albanian authorities about his mission. He added that he had come to establish direct relations between the Albanian Army and the forces of UNPROFOR. Such direct relations, he added, will be in maintaining in resolving border issues. Regarding the resolution in the case of the Albanian senior officer who was killed at the border, the general said that the Macedonian authorities informed him very late regarding the case. "I have also read the report of the observers of the EC, which is objective. The president of the Republic of Albania and the minister of defence are concerned that they have received no reply concerning this grave incident in the border and I will deal with this question myself," he said. Asked of his opinion about the possible extension of the conflict in the south, General Thomson said he hoped that there will be no extension of the conflict further south, which would have very serious consequences and could be more difficult to contain than the war in Bosnia. Everybody knows this and is worried about it, he said. Consequently, the U.S.A. is closely following the conflict in former Yugoslavia, it has contributed troops to my command. This act should send an important signal to the Serbs, he said.

Lek Strengthens in Currency Market

AU0608183593 Tirana ATA in English 1014 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tirana, August 7 (ATA)—The currency market in Albania is in a state of shock. Without prior notice, the National Bank has injected an additional 2,000,000 dollars into the exchange system, which led to immediate drop in the value of dollar and other foreign currencies and the increase value of the Albanian lek. There is no doubt that the valuation of lek is good for the broad masses of people, but one cannot say the same for the Albanians outside of the country the value of whose incomes has been thereby reduced.

This monetary policy favours imports but does not encourage export activity.

"We give priority to the consolidation of lek because this makes the bank policy more reliable," the director of National Bank says.

World Bank Grants New Assistance Loans

AU0808145093 Tirana ATA in English 1007 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Tirana, August 8 (ATA)—The World Bank has recently accorded Albania a financial fund of 4.6 million U.S. dollars. This loan has been approved by the International Development Association (IDA) in support of the economic program of this government for 1993-1995.

The loan is result of an agreement of the Albanian Government with IDA in Washington in June this year and supports the project of Tucmicul assistance for two years. The minister of finances and economy, Genc Ruli told ATA reporter that "the proposed project will fund social assistance in the directions it has not been covered by other projects, such as provision with econmic statistics, mainly for the private sector, macroeconomic analysis, creation and restructuring of banks." In addition to this credit, the government approved on August 6 another credit in the amount of 14.2 million U.S. dollars, accorded by IDA in support of the agricultural sector, in addition to 20 million U.S. dollars by the Japanese Government, 2 million by the Dutch and 8 other millions by the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] program.

According to the minister of agriculture and food, Petrit Kalakula, this credit will contribute to the realisation of the economic program of the Albanian Government in the field of agriculture for 18 months, in regard to prices and in support of cadres of agriculture, reorganization of the agricultural bank, dissolution of the state farms, development of legislation to create the land market, rapid privatization of agricultural enterprises.

OPEC Offers Assistance With Infrastructure

AU0608172393 Tirana ATA in English 1009 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tirana, August 6 (ATA)—On August 5 an OPEC delegation led by Said Abdullai, director general of OPEC, visited Durres escorted by Deputy Prime Minister Kopliku, Ministers Bitincka and Xhaja, and the mayor of Durres, Tomorr Golemi. The delegation also visited the port of Durres. Bujar Shehu, director of the port, briefed the delegation on the current state of the ship yard and plans for its future development and including the need for further investment. Mr. Abdullai and his substitute voiced their opinions on the principal issues and promised to discuss them when meeting with the government.

The delegation also went to the Durres beach and visited tourist hotels. The mayor of Durres presented the visitors with a list of the emergency needs of the Durres citizenry and pointed out the need for a new hospital.

Mr. Abdullai stressed that the aid of OPEC fund will cover mainly infrastructure and health.

At midday the delegation visited Fier and Vlore.

Berov Comments on Delays in Land Reform

AU0508125293 Sofia BTA in English 0958 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 5 (BTA)—The cabinet's priorities, foreign debt problems and some foreign policy issues are the key points in an interview of Prime Minister Berov in Today's REPORTER 7, a private weekly.

"At present there is a great difference, not to say a gulf between what banks want from us and what Bulgaria can pay," the premier says, answering a question on Bulgaria's foreign debt. The reason for this is not some narrow-mindedness of the cabinet, but rather the limits of the mandate given to it by the National Assembly, he stresses. The suspension of foreign debt negotiations is not a ground for alarm, the prime minister believes. Unlike the creditors, we have done a lot for bringing our positions closer, he says later on.

The cabinet had three major problems to address: first—the land reform, second—privatization, and third—crime, according to the Professor Berov.

The land reform is following its normal course, he believes. Some 34 percent of the land has been returned by now, 17 percent of it within real boundaries. According to Prime Minister Berov, it would be possible to return only 55 to 60 percent of the land by the end of this year. Conflicts in the villages and the failure of a number of companies to draw up the land division plans are pointed to as the main reasons for this delay.

The problem with privatization is that we have only walked half the way, says Premier Berov. Out of the total of 300 units, moved in parliament for large and small-scale privatization, only 30 have been privatized by now. There are some other projects as well, but contracts will be negotiated for not more than 60 of them, the premier believes. This fact brought about the decision for mass privatization, he explained.

"Our hands are virtually tied up as regards crime," Prof. Berov says. He points out two major obstacles in fighting crime: the absence of a new legislative framework as regards criminal law and the present state of Bulgaria's judicial system.

For the time being the premier is not planning any cabinet changes. As for the accusations of political dismissals, Professor Berov says that "everybody should be loyal to the authorities he serves." High-ranking civil servants are expected to adhere to certain norms of behaviour and support the government policy, which, according to the premier, serves national interests. "If you disagree you sign your resignation. Each cabinet has the right to do this," Prof. Berov adds.

Zhelev Sends Letter of Support to Sarajevo

AU0608131393 Sofia BTA in English 1126 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 6 (BTA)—On Sarajevo Day, Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev has sent a letter to the people of Sarajevo.

The letter says that "on Sarajevo Day, August 6, the Bulgarian people raise their voice in support of the coexistence of all nationalities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. With respect for their dignity, their cultural and religious values, and with hope that the will for peace will allay the anger and will obliterate hate.

"We still find it hard to accept that now, quite near, the horror has become a daily experience, in the Olympic city of Sarajevo, in the sunny lands of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the age of all-pervasive information, however, the evidence is incontestable. It brings us back to the words of the great writer, Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andric, written in another moment of history and on another historical occasion: 'It happens from time to time in human society that hate and anger may overflow their banks, destroy everything, dim the reason and blunt man's good instincts. While they are raging, it seems that the end of the world has come, and in the place of what exists and lives and moves and talks, there will remain nothing but dead oceans of hate and anger, for ever an end in themselves,'" the letter says.

Press Reports Zhelev Meeting With Former King

AU0808160593 Sofia BTA in English 1455 GMT 8 Aug 93

[From BTA 8 August Press Review]

[Excerpt] Sofia, August 8 (BTA)—The two private dailies which come out on Sunday, 24 CHASA, and STANDART NEWS, report the meeting between Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev and the exiled Bulgarian monarch, King Simeon II, in Brussels, where the two attended the funeral of King Baudouin I. "It was a cursory meeting," the presidential spokesman told 24 CHASA. The two papers quote President Zhelev as saying on his return here last night that Simeon II thanked for the assistance which the Bulgarian state provides to Queen Giovanna (the King's mother) for the reburial of the heart of her husband, King Boris III. "Bulgaria already is or at least wants to be a democratic and civilized state. We draw distinction between historical facts and assessments and purely human relations," President Zhelev told Simeon II. The two newspapers also note that during his meeting with foreign heads of state in Brussels, the Bulgarian president raised the question of Bulgaria's losses from the observance of the Yugoembargo, but none has committed himself for the time being to the provision of assistance or compensation for the losses. [passage omitted]

Yordanov Calls Meeting of Assembly on 11 Aug

AU0608183693 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] On the basis of Article 78, Paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Article 31, Subsection 2, of the Regulations for the Organization and Work of the National Assembly, National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov calls a session of parliament on Wednesday, 11 August 1993. This is stated in an announcement issued by the National Assembly Press Service.

The session is called at the request of a group of National Assembly deputies to examine a draft resolution to suspend for a period of three years the dismantling and destruction of monuments and memorial buildings connected with Bulgaria's most recent history and to complete the second reading of a draft law on amendments and additions to the law on the temporary introduction of certain additional requirements relating to the members and leaderships of scientific organizations and the Higher Certification Commission.

Socialist Party Attacks 11 Aug Assembly Session

AU0708200593 Sofia BTA in English 1613 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 7 (BTA)—"The Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] and the Socialist MP's see the order to call a second extraordinary sitting (of parliament) on August 11 as the latest in a series of provocations by (National Assembly Chairman) Aleksandur Yordanov against parliamentarianism, having nothing to do with the actual powers of the chairman," says a BSP declaration issued today. The Socialists declare that there will be no extraordinary sitting on August 11 because no one has asked for it.

Parliament took a one-month recess on August 1. On August 2, however, the government requested the convocation of an extraordinary sitting for the passage of amendments to the Turnover Tax and Excise Duty Act. After National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov called an extraordinary sitting on August 9, the Socialists demanded the inclusion of another two items on its agenda: on a moratorium on the demolition and dismantling of monuments of Bulgaria's contemporary history and on amendments to last year's academic decommunization act. Reacting to this request of the BSP, Mr. Yordanov announced yesterday that he was calling a second extraordinary sitting on August 11.

In their declaration today, the Socialists specified that all they wanted was consideration of further items at the August 9 sitting.

The leader of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Right and Freedoms (DPS) Ahmed Dogan told the BTA correspondent in Varna last night that "the BSP is going too far." Mr. Dogan said that a "trip may have to be taken on Monday" (August 9) because the amendments to the Turnover Tax and Excise Duty Act were necessary indeed. "Whether they will be passed is another question, because it is anachronistic to hold extraordinary sittings during recess," Mr. Dogan went on to say.

Commenting on Prime Minister Berov's statement that his cabinet would resign if the parliamentary sitting on August 9 fails, the leader of the movement (on whose mandate the Berov government was formed) said that "if the government thinks it is so important that it can put the MP's who support it to the test, it is just as gravely mistaken."

SDS Parliament Members 'Will Not Help Government'

AU0908112793 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 5 Aug 93 p 3

["Statement by the Parliamentary Group of the Union of Democratic Forces Regarding the Extraordinary Session of the National Assembly," issued in Sofia on 4 August]

[Text] At the last session of parliament the majority of members failed to support by their attendance the taxation changes demanded by the government. In the absence of the prime minister and finance minister, who thus showed their lack of concern, fewer than half of the National Assembly deputies used their cards to vote on the final passages of the bill. Their numbers completely melted away when the time came to vote on increasing the excise duties. A problem has arisen between the government, which wanted the tax burdens increased, and the fragile majority, which did not wish to assume the responsibility for this. If this majority wanted to help the government solve its budget problems, it would have stayed on to vote until the end, as it did in the case of the political dismissal approved in the ballot at the beginning of the session.

The parliamentary group of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] has always insisted on fair tax regulations. Our government introduced the laws on taxation reform a year ago. We are for encouraging the publication of educational literature, Bulgarian books, and the press, but do not support imposing a fresh tax burden on everyone else by tinkering with old laws. It is quite without precedent that the excise duties on liquid fuels, which everybody has to pay, are to be raised for the second time in a year. This will not fill the budget's coffers. Because of its weakness and indolence, the government is unable to collect the taxes, and is therefore increasing them. It has collected 31 percent of the revenues envisaged in the national budget law for the first half of 1993, whereas last year the previous government collected 41 percent.

In its role of the sole opposition, the SDS parliamentary group will not help the government, whose resignation it has long been demanding. The prime minister's blackmail and ultimatums are for those who support him.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Racketeering

AU0708204893 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 31 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Viktor Mikhaylov by unidentified DUMA representative; place and date not given: "Nonprofessionals Will Go"]

[Text] On 30 July Interior Minister Viktor Mikhaylov held meetings in Velingrad and Pazardzhik with representatives of townships, municipal councils, the prosecution and investigation services, and the public. They discussed crime problems in the region and the present situation, with special reference to cases of racketeering in Velingrad that have become known throughout the country. It was announced that two preliminary investigations have been started.

[DUMA] Mr. Minister, the problem of racketeering in the country continues to cause alarm. Did the situation in Velingrad prompt your visit to the region?

[Mikhaylov] In Velingrad the public for the first time showed resistance to the bullys who are roaming about the country, and I accepted the invitation to visit this spa town. I support the initiative of the local businessmen and respect their courage in standing up to the criminal acts. However, the situation in the region around Pazardzhik is not so serious as in other towns. Rackets were not invented by Bulgarians; they started in the United States in 1890, and later, in 1924 with the creation of the Cosa Nostra, acquired more advanced forms. At the present stage organized crime involving extortion is even spreading into the structures of state and political power. I am ready when the time comes to give information to the media about this.

[DUMA] Do you not think that Velingrad was purposely chosen by this clique of criminals after the local police were "purged?" Is it not true that half the officers in the district administration were thrown overboard?

[Mikhaylov] Velingrad did not suffer any more dismissals than other places. During the last three years 14,200 police officers have been removed from the system.

[DUMA] Do you promise to restore equilibrium in the police structures of the Pazardzhik region?

[Mikhaylov] This is a question of time. I promise that the nonprofessionals will go. I am not a magician, but at the moment, in my capacity as interior minister, I am in the process of signing orders on reinstating some of the police officers dismissed throughout the country.

[DUMA] How long will tension continue to be provoked between chiefs and subordinates in the Interior Ministry system?

[Mikhaylov] We cannot lay down regulations governing relations between people, nor can we create a police bible. We are dealing with relations between people. However, if someone comes and tells me that a law is provoking tension between an ordinary policeman and his superior, I will stand that person a drink.

[DUMA] What kind of reports is the regional director sending you on the situation in Pazardzhik?

[Mikhaylov] The situation with the rackets is extremely tricky in both Velingrad and Pazardzhik. The problem lies with the collection of evidence on the special kind of crime that racketeering represents. At the present stage we see two forms of extortion of money. The first is the classic form of racket, which was introduced in Velingrad. The group comes along and threatens to break up business clubs and bars unless it is paid a certain contribution. The second form is when businessmen who are not threatened by racketeers conduct their business dealings under the table and do not record them in their accounting books to avoid paying tax. When such a businessman is swindled out of large amounts of money by his opposite number, he finds members of a firm of racketeers to beat up the person in question or throw a bomb at him. This dispensing of justice outside the law is, of course, a criminal offense.

[DUMA] Who in your opinion severed the strand connecting the police, the investigation and prosecution services, and the courts? Are not their relations unstable, and who is pulling the strings?

[Mikhaylov] In 1990 parliament made populist amendments to the Code of Penal Procedure under which the police are no longer involved in preliminary investigation proceedings. Since then we are unable to carry out all the procedures necessary for the penal process and thus help to bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice. Our actions were stopped solely on the basis of Article 110 of the Code of Penal Procedure and, in some cases, Article 199 of the same code. These cover only 5-10 percent of the real powers that the police may use in dealing with visible criminal elements. During the last three years, the prosecution service and the courts have stopped about 15,000 preliminary investigations against known perpetrators of crimes on the basis of Article 22. At the same time, the prosecutors have been denied the right to read the explanations of the defendant to the court, even if these explanations were made in the presence of the defendant's attorney. In practical terms, this means that the accused, for whose well-being everyone has been so concerned, has the opportunity at the end of the investigation to examine all the existing evidence, assess the likely omissions, and reject everything that is not in his favor.

Such a scandalous state of affairs exists in no other legal system in the world. Hardly 1 percent of arrested criminals are sentenced. We all tolerate the vacuum in our judicial system, because the rain falls on all of us. You will say that the police are doing nothing. We cannot take the criminal home and shut him up in the basement.

BNB Governor Comments on Khursev's Dismissal

AU0708202393 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 3 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Professor Todor Vulchev, governor of the Bulgarian National Bank, BNB, by Konstantsa Ancheva; place and date not given: "National Bank Will Not Miss Emil Khursev"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ancheva] Was the antagonism between you and Emil Khursev [dismissed deputy chairman of the Bulgarian National Bank, BNB] due to a personal conflict or differences regarding concepts and principles?

[Vulchev] It was not a personal battle, although we did have substantial differences on fundamental problems of BNB policy. However, matters developed so that my confidence in certain members of the BNB Governing Board was shaken. The bank is managed by the board on the basis of consensus, and it was not possible to continue like this with distrust existing between some members of the Governing Board. For two years now, the bank's management has been working very energetically with a high degree of unanimity and the ability to reach the necessary compromises.

[Ancheva] Are any resignations expected in the BNB? Lately there have been rumors that Stoyan Shukerov, head of the Foreign Exchange Operations Department, will leave.

[Vulchev] It is not desirable for other members of the Governing Board to leave the bank. It is not so easy to find replacements for them. Of course, no one is indispensable, but I will be glad if my colleagues stay in their jobs and continue to carry out their duties as well as they have done until now. Incidentally, I said this at the first meeting of the board, which took place two hours after the National Assembly passed its vote. I believe that my colleagues understood my appeal. Emil Khursev attended this meeting. It will be quite possible to cooperate with him, even when he is outside the bank. He is an outstanding specialist in the field of information technologies and bank accounting.

[Ancheva] What urgent problems face the bank's management?

[Vulchev] The bank never stops working. We plan our leaves so that the Governing Board can meet. The immediate task that faces us is to consider the matter of solving the problem of bad credits jointly with the Finance Ministry. I have just come from a meeting of the Council of Ministers that decided that the finance minister should submit a report on 20 August or thereabouts on how to solve this problem. This report will probably be drafted in consultation with the BNB. In this connection, a certain burden will fall on the shoulders of both the commercial banks and the BNB, which requires that we should jointly discuss what burdens are tolerable for them. It is impossible for them to assume the entire burden. The budget also faces a credit problem. A further major problem that we have to discuss is the issue of privatization. Here we will play a much smaller role, but we are required to state our position. We are continuing with the licensing of financial houses and brokerage firms. Our policy in this respect is extremely liberal, and we intend to continue this course. We are also beginning to apply the banking regulations, and the bank supervision department is likely to have much work to do. All this is due to take place during the summer, so that we will hardly be able to take long holidays.

[Ancheva] May we expect any changes in the base interest rate, or that the dollar exchange rate may again "run wild," although I know that you prefer to be discrete regarding the latter?

[Vulchev] The BNB chairman will clearly never make a statement regarding the dollar exchange rate, because this normally has a strong effect on the foreign exchange market. This market is more or less returning to normal following the speculative movement. We will wait and see how it behaves during the coming days. The BNB has great possibilities for influencing the market. As regards the base interest rate, the plenary session of the Governing Council that was held last month reached the common view that the rate should not be changed until the foreign exchange market settles down. The domestic lev market, in which the interest rate is a principal factor, is closely linked with the foreign exchange market, and one should not forget this. If, nevertheless, any change is made, it is most likely that the base interest rate will fall, because the rate of inflation has been lower during the summer.

Water Agreement Reached With Turkish Delegation

TA0708153993 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1425 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 7 (AA)—A water crisis erupted between Bulgaria and Turkey has been resolved as Turkey accepted to pay four million 330 thousand dollars to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria had previously refused to release water from its dam over the Tunca River of Maritsa to Turkey, putting the rice farmers into a difficult position. The waters of the Maritsa River which cross over two neighboring countries, decrease in summer because of the summer and the dam built on the biggest branch of Maritsa River, on the Bulgarian side.

The decrease of the level of the river's waters, leads to an irrigation problem, especially for farmers in Thrace, in northwest Turkey.

Bulgarian officials who sat at the negotiating table with the Turkish delegation here, agreed on releasing 32.6 million square meters of water to Turkey during summer, from the Jrebchevo dam.

The protocol signed between the two delegations Friday evening, foresees Turkey to pay Bulgaria 12 cents for each square meter of water released from the dam.

This will mean Turkey to pay 4 million 330 thousand U.S. dollars to Bulgaria, to protect the rice producers in the region neighboring Bulgaria.

Bulgaria will begin releasing water from the dam on Monday. The water level of the Maritsa River will reach its normal level in Turkey within three days.

Loans to Public Sector Exceed Private Loans

AU0608201093 Sofia BTA in English 1711 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 6 (BTA)—Credits granted to the public sector by June, 1993, exceeded twelve-fold those to the private sector, according to statistics of the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB). The amount of credits granted to the government and to the economy over the past four years of economic restructuring is approximately equal. Financing of state-owned enterprises exceeded seven-fold that of private companies.

Statistics show that credits to the economy by June 1993 totalled 182,000 million leva. 159,000 million leva of them went to the public sector and only 23,000 million leva to the private. Credits to the government total 136,000 million leva. Of them, the Foreign Trade Bank received 79,000 million, the BNB 28,000 million, the State Savings Bank 18,000 million, and the commercial banks 11,000 million.

Commentator Criticizes Mass Privatization Project

AU0808150593 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 3 Aug 93 p 8

[Nikolay Zhukov commentary: "Illusory Privatization"]

[Text] To justify calling itself a government of privatization, Professor Lyuben Berov's team is shouldering the insuperable task of privatizing 492 enterprises and eight banks by transferring stakes in them to Bulgarian citizens. The cabinet has set itself an incredibly short period to achieve this: from 1 September 1993 to 31 December 1994. It is unclear whether the BNB [Bulgarian National Bank] is even physically capable of organizing a competition to prepare a draft document for the process and of printing the required securities in time. Yet the final date has already been set for completing this work—29 October 1993.

Unclear as the technical side of the mass privatization may be, the essence of the project is twice as obscure. Four years ago, Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, also foresaw that the future would belong to whoever owns the property, and transferred the machine tools into the ownership of the labor collectives. The workers were each given a single means of production marked with a number, but the general secretary did not relinquish his power to anyone.

Evidently, we are now witnessing a similar transformation. The citizen, or more precisely the retired pensioner, will receive a beautiful security certificate that will not be printed in Germany, because its cost would then exceed its face value. He will then become the owner of part of an enterprise. What is certain, however, is that the enterprise in question will be bankrupt or facing liquidation.

Nonetheless, the cabinet will still justify its name as a government of mass privatization.

Klaus Denies Government Going Soft on Economy

AU0608133193 Prague CTK in English 1955 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 4 (CTK)—It is simply not true that the government has softened its policy on the economy, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus said in an interview with Czech Radio today.

These views appeared in connection with the postponement of company bankruptcies and the slow deregulation of rents.

For the time being, the government is neither speeding up nor slowing down the process of bankruptcies. It has simply submitted a draft law which is establishing a three-month protective safety limit, said Klaus.

What the government did, was to simply postpone for three months in an attempt to find a solution. If someone considers this to be softening, I disagree, stated Klaus.

On the housing issue, the government was caught between a Scylla and Charybdis (house owners and tenants) and it was trying to draft a policy which both sides would feel is rational, noted Klaus.

Number of Citizens Investing in Privatization Funds

AU0608133493 Prague CTK in English 1633 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 4 (CTK)—Almost two thirds of shareholders invested their investment points during the first wave of coupon privatisation through one of the privatisation investment funds (IPF), according to a poll conducted by the GFK Praha institute among 717 Czechs on June 4-21.

Thirty-seven percent of shareholders decided to invest independently, the poll showed.

The confidence in the shares acquired in the first wave of coupon privatisation is approximately identical among both women and men. More than nine percent of men and seven percent of women want to sell their shares as soon as possible. The citizens' willingness to sell the shares declines with the degree of their education.

More than 16 percent of those questioned intend to sell their shares after their price increases, while 55 percent are determined to maintain the acquired shares.

Seven percent of those polled are interested in trading on the stock exchange. Some 23 percent have not yet decided whether or not to enter the stock exchange, while 70 percent said they would neither buy nor sell their shares there.

The first wave of coupon privatisation in the former Czechoslovakia lasted from February until December 1992.

Moravian National Party Chairman on Instability

LD0608170493 Prague CTK in English 1409 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Brno, August 6 (CTK)—In the light of the recent scandals in privatisation and security information services, the Moravian National Party's (MNS) efforts towards full regional autonomy for Moravia are gaining new meaning, MNS Chairman Ivan Drimal said today.

It is not desirable to stabilise the current, centralised system of government, characterised by unethical, corrupt and dilettantish behaviour, he said, adding that the Czech Republic's interior structure had to guarantee effectiveness and the possibility of balancing the power of the omnipotent central government.

(Czech Premier) Klaus is not telling us what effective measures are being taken to limit suspicious activity and relations all we learn from him is the existence of unspecified hidden forces which are interested in undermining the transformation and stability of society. It is reminiscent of the former regime's notorious searches for the enemy within, Drimal warned.

He said he believed the instability was not being caused by those who call attention to the problems, as Klaus suggested, but those who keep alive the strange symbiosis of STB (Communist Secret Police) agents, apparatchiks, fringe social elements and the shady nouveaux riches. It hardly needs saying that we were all morally affected by the former regime and do not therefore have the right to criticise, Drimal said.

Meciar: Gen Pinochet Will Not Come to Slovakia

LD0608211293 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 2000 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] After a long time Vladimir Meciar, chairman of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS], met correspondents on Wednesday [4 August] at a HZDS news conference.

[Begin Meciar recording] The second question concerned General Pinochet. Do not worry, he will not come to Slovakia! Why should we be the only country in the world to give him legitimacy?

I am aware of the fact that certain circles in Chile said they would be prepared to place orders with our arms industry, under the condition that we will accept him. We will not accept him! [end recording]

Meciar Resents Comparison With Communists

AU0608132393 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 2 Aug 93 pp 1, 3

[Transcript of radio interview with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by L. Lintner in Bratislava on 29 July: "It Is Not a Clean Business"]

[Text] On Thursday [29 July], Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar was recording the regular interview for the Slovak Radio, which has been broadcast every Friday. This time, he taped two interviews. As is customary in Slovakia, we found a tape recording of the interview, which was not aired, in an envelope on our desk.

[Lintner] Mr. Prime Minister, as you expected last week, your observation that the opposition was preparing changes in both the parliament and the government, caused a lot of excitement. How would you assess your own words after the passage of one week, would you change anything of what you said?

[Meciar] There is nothing to change. As a matter of fact, it would be possible to add some particulars for clarity. The plans for changes of conditions after the elections are long-term ones. If I mentioned something today, or in the previous interview, then it was just a partial revelation of the very tip of these plans. An analysis of the motivation is missing, as is an analysis of interests, the actors—entities that take part in this business. Hence, it all is much more complex than it seems. Our objective is not to cause or make scandals, but rather to get the public informed before the plans are realized. Moreover, there is a difference in understanding the essence of democracy. If a democratic step is taken as a result of an objective evaluation of the situation, and a decision of conscience and political will, everything is in order. If, however, it is motivated otherwise, it is not in order.

[Lintner] Mr. Prime Minister, observers as well as representatives or actors of our political scene reproached you for using, in the last interview, the word coup, reasoning that this term is used for a violent takeover or seizure of power by force. The instance in question was a simple use of legal parliamentary measures in the National Council. If you remember, two years ago, after you were recalled, the opposition kept on asking for the reconstruction of the presidium to attain a proportional representation in the parliament, and nobody called it a coup then.

[Meciar] Of course, if we go back to the coup experts of earlier times and my application of the term coup, we find a certain qualitative difference. First, there was no rational basis for it then. It was a matter of issues fabricated with the objective of discrediting someone. The statement made now does have a rational basis. If the changes in the parliament and other institutions are to be motivated by material interests, that is not a pure will. If a party official from a party that nobody voted for is to become chairman of the National Council, that is not a clean business. If mechanisms of various forms of discreditation of people are to be used, that is not a clean business. Even if we do not understand the term coup as someone going to cut somebody's throat in the physical sense of the word, people can be eliminated in many ways. That has been in the works here for several months, and we pretend not to see anything. Therefore, for the first time, I spoke about these matters openly.

[Lintner] Even if you are the representative of the movement that won the elections, in assessing the situation in the parliament, you should keep in mind the following figures: Last year, 1,148,625 citizens—i.e., 37.26 percent—voted for the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia. The votes for the other parties totalled 1,200,562—or 38.93 percent. While your movement is a clear election winner, and the text of the law changed the 37 percent support in the elections to 49 percent and a fraction in the parliament, I believe that the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia should be aware of the actual number of voters it represents. In simple words, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia is not the entire Slovakia.

[Meciar] This, Dear Sir, is a great mistake on your part, but I understand democracy. The outcome of the elections influenced the composition of the parliament. The composition of the cabinet is a result of the combination of certain forces and certain political agreements. If someone assumes executive power on the basis of an agreement with other entities and bears it, then it is a different matter. That is the first. Second—you negate, and thereby not only you but many reporters make a fundamental error, that many institutions exist independently from all parties, it is the entire justice system as the third component of power, the office of the prosecutor, and security that are not dependent on any political party. These are constituent elements of the state administration and not the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia. Furthermore, you negate the factor of the high-degree of dependence of the distribution of power in the state administration on the parliament. To a great

degree, however, it also depends on the previous development. The actual situation was such that, because of the precarious state of the Republic after the elections, nobody wanted to join the government. After all, as soon as the election results were known, our talks with Messrs. Weiss and Prokes commenced, and although we neither put it down on paper nor published it, we always agreed on something, and the government emerged and worked on the basis of these agreements. The entire mechanism of political talks was based on these agreements. I was aware of the change in the situation transpiring after 1 January 1993, that the traditional polarization of the political spectrum—as everywhere else—has to come as soon as the national democratic problems—which remain open and are not yet settled—are solved. At present, this national democratic element and the reaction to changes in the social structure of the population blend together. Hence, neither you nor anybody else has the right to cast doubts on matters about which you know, or wish to know, nothing. If the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia exercises its power and fulfills its role, it deserves to be thanked and not doubted or ignored, because Slovakia did not have any other alternative at the time, and unfortunately it does not have one now either. The broad-coalition government ideas are based on the anticipation of a general fall, asking that everybody dirties himself at the same time. To speak about the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia government in derogatory terms, as is often done because of the prime minister, means to be blind and deaf to life itself. The truth is that the government is, first, viable and effective, and deals well with the situation it objectively did not conceive or bring about. So far, nobody has criticized us for actual mistakes. They criticize us and say that we use, and put everywhere, officials of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia. In the entire cabinet, in all ministries, there are 28 members of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, and that includes the ministers. No other party would be so objective. If you visit a ministry, you will see from which party the people are, but it is not the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia.

[Lintner] I definitely did not ask that question to challenge the results, but there are certain figures and certain ideas that arise from these figures. Just a moment, let me go back to the interview....

[Meciar] Excuse me, but I disagreed with you. Clinton did not get all the votes, and yet the power is based on Clinton's election victory. If you consider the percentage of the citizens who could vote for him and those who voted for him, and how many votes he received, it is a minority. If you take these mechanisms even further, and apply them to other states, you will find that democratic systems operate differently. So, please, do not try to construe something to suit your purpose when it is not true.

[Lintner] I, Mr. Prime Minister, disagree with you that I would construe something to suit my purpose, and let me give you an instance that you may or may not accept but you used it as an example just last week. You spoke about Japan and Austria, where a single party has ruled for several years. It is precisely this element of the government by a single party. We have left the government of a single party that showed elements of a totality about four years ago, and....

[Meciar] You are going too far. Do not identify or compare the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia with the Communist Party. Do not insult us, I beg of you.

[Lintner] Mr. Prime Minister, I would not dare, but do admit one thing....

[Meciar] Excuse me, but under these circumstances I will not go on with the interview.

Ship Crosses Belgrade Section of Danube

LD0608200893 Budapest MTI in English 1904 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Budapest, August 6 (MTI)—Adony, a Hungarian ship, was allowed to cross the Belgrade section of the Danube without any delay on Friday, Hungarian Shipping Co. (Mahart) technical director Gyorgy Jakab told MTI today.

The ship was originally scheduled to reach the previously blockaded, crucial section of the river on Thursday. Earlier, Mahart obtained contradictory information regarding the Serbian blockade, allowing Adony to leave the border only on Thursday following the Serbian Ministry of Transport instructions to both the border station at V. Gradiste and the Belgrade shipping station, granting permission to foreign ships to sail through Yugoslavia without any delay, Jakab said.

An additional two Mahart ships are scheduled to leave the Black Sea ports for Hungary at not yet specified dates, the director said.

Goncz Greets Forum of Hungarian Papers

LD0708183493 Budapest MTI in English 1739 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Budapest, August 7 (MTI) - "It would be the greatest achievement if Hungarian papers, published either in Hungary or abroad, more efficiently helped the coexisting and interdependent peoples and nations of the region to get closer to one another," Hungarian President Arpad Goncz said in a letter, greeting participants in the first forum of Hungarian papers published in neighbouring countries. The forum took place in Budapest today.

Organized by the Hungarian Dunasat Foundation and the Vera Jako Foundation, the event was attended by representatives of sixty papers and the Hungarian press.

Gabor Bencsik, President of the Hungarian journalists' union, stressed that the press in Hungary should serve the interests of ethnic Hungarian minorities with every word and every action.

For the scattered minorities, Hungarian word, news and information are "air itself," Csaba Kosa, president of the community of Hungarian journalists, said.

Dezso Kopreda, deputy general director of MTI, spoke about the new opportunities of satellite data transmission. The electronic database of MTI demonstrated its services for the participants.

On behalf of the organizers, Dezso Abraham told MTI that the forum was aimed at providing the papers with first-hand, professional information about the issues interesting their readers.

The forum was closed with a gala programme by Hungarian artists from Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, Slovenia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

National Bank Reports Domestic Debt Increasing

LD0608173193 Budapest MTI in English 1433 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Budapest, August 6 (MTI-ECONEWS)—Domestic state debt is expected to increase by HUF [Hungarian forints] 669.4 bn [billion] in 1993, reaching HUF 2,840.1bn by the end of the Year.

According to figures from the National Bank of Hungary and the Ministry of Finance, the growth in domestic state debt began to accelerate in 1990. In that year, domestic state debt amounted to HUF 1,357.2bn, rising to HUF 1,835.9bn in 1991 to total HUF 2,170.7bn at the end of 1992. The growth is mainly attributed to a sharp increase in the budget deficit during the last three years.

The domestic state debt to GDP [Gross Domestic Product] ratio stood at 77.5 pc at the end of last year, as against 65.3 pc in 1990. According to Finance Ministry estimates, Hungary's GDP will reach HUF 3,270-3,370bn this year resulting in a domestic state debt/GDP ratio of 84.2-86.8 pc.

The domestic state debt could be financed from the domestic capital market due to a higher than expected growth in savings.

No Agreement With Russia on Troop Facilities

LD0608145193 Warsaw PAP in English 1353 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 6—The reason for not signing a protocol on taking over facilities after Russian troops, that had left Rembertow on Friday [6 August], was the fact that the Russians wanted to keep two buildings in the system of barracks for themselves, Government Commissioner for the stationing of Russian troops in Poland General Zdzislaw Ostrowski said on Friday.

"I did not agree to this as we are taking over either everything or nothing. There cannot be an enclave of foreign troops in the system of barracks that will be occupied by the formation of the Interior Ministry's vistula units. I am waiting for the Russians' decision to convey everything to us as envisaged by the agreement," Ostrowski said.

Col Kuklinski Declines Invitation To Visit

LD0608122493 Warsaw PAP in English 1115 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 6—Ryszard Kuklinski has sent letters to the leaders of the Centre Alliance (PC) and the Movement of the Third Republic (RTR) Jaroslaw Kaczynski and Jan Parys telling them that he could not come to Poland.

Kuklinski is the Polish army colonel who passed secret documents relating to the imposition of martial law to the C.I.A. and defected to the United States in 1981.

Kuklinski tells both politicians that he cannot visit Poland because his case is at an "impasse". The Warsaw Military Court sentenced him to death in his absence during the martial law period and 2 years ago the sentence was reduced to 25 years in prison.

Kuklinski says that on September 17 (the anniversary of the Soviet attack on Poland in 1939) he will be in Poland with his mind and feelings. He adds that he would be grateful if somebody were to lay a wreath on his behalf dedicated to the "Polish soldiers who died at the hands of the bolsheviks".

PSL-PL To Run Alone in Elections

LD0608172793 Warsaw PAP in English 1416 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 6—The Polish Peasant Party-Peasant Agreement (PSL-PL) is to finally take part in the elections of MPs [members of parliament] to the Sejm and the Senate as an independent political grouping, PSL-PL Chairman Gabriel Janowski told journalists on Friday [6 August].

He added that, in his opinion, the fact that the PSL-PL would independently take part in the elections should not reduce the number of candidates who could get chances to be elected to parliament.

Solidarity Outlines Electoral Strategy

LD0608141593 Warsaw PAP in English 1328 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 6—Solidarity will launch a "State friendly to man" slogan in the coming parliamentary elections, chairman of the Mazowsze Solidarity region Maciej Jankowski told journalists on Friday [6 August]. In his opinion, the elections are the last opportunity to build a "decent state" by parliamentary means.

Solidarity supports the adoption of a new constitution, whose principles will be approved in a nationwide referendum, the system of parliamentary democracy and mixed electoral regulations as well as decentralization of state functions.

According to Solidarity, economic strategy should be based on: Lasting legal and economic foundations, orderly ownership relations including the setting up of the state treasury, and linking economic policy to the social one. In this respect, Solidarity demands the pursuing of customs and tax policy that would promote the development of domestic market and export, full investment autonomy of state enterprises, and minimum prices for agricultural produce.

As for social policy, Solidarity considers it most important to do away with permanent unemployment, to create a new mechanism of wages devised so that the volume of remunerations could be negotiated in collective labour contracts, to guarantee state benefits for families, to provide young people with opportunities to get education at all levels, to reform the system of social insurances, to create health insurances and to bring housing policy in order.

Jankowski criticized economic and social policy pursued "over the past four years." In his opinion, there is no democracy in Poland and political parties do not represent the interests of social groups but only those of their own. He said also that privatization was carried out in a "rapacious" way, that the economy was disintegrating and that the state was robbing people instead of taking care of them.

He added that if parliamentary methods failed and the existing policy was continued, Solidarity would not rule out applying extraparliamentary means, including strikes and demonstrations. "If it is necessary, we will do this before the elections as we are no longer afraid of any bogeys," Jankowski said.

Union of Labor Unveils Election Slogans

LD0708155693 Warsaw PAP in English 1541 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 7—The National Council of the Union of Labour (UP) on Saturday held a meeting to inaugurate the election campaign, set its details and unveil four leading election slogans.

Chairman of the Union Ryszard Bugaj said that "let's restore hope" refers to the hope lost after 1989 and claimed that "it can be restored together by stimulating peoples' activity and overcoming deep apathy."

Bugaj explained that "equal opportunities are your chance" means that the union thinks there is a disparity in chances and hints at the ways to restore a balance of opportunities.

"The Union of Labour for Working People" and "the Union of Labour—New Left, Programme Free of Extremes" contests the slogan of the post-communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD). "We want to stress that people can either elect those who used to call themselves the left, but have roots in the Communist Party or those who (...) have roots in the anti-communist opposition," Bugaj said.

Commenting on the recently signed concordat between Poland and the Holy See, Bugaj contended that, according to a stance adopted by the council, his party is ready to accuse the ruling coalition of signing the concordat to win the support of the clergy in the election campaign.

He added that the concordat could have been signed earlier or could be signed at a later date, but not now. The UP claimed that the concordat does not protect Poland's rights and interests, was approved of before the constitution has been passed.

He emphasized that the up does not oppose the concordat but will put forward a resolution to supplement it with relevant protocols, equal in rank. In this case, the concordat might be ratified after the passing of the constitution, he said.

PSL Leader Views Privatization as Top Issue

LD0808203393 Warsaw PAP in English 2014 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Rzeszow Aug. 8—The privatization of the economy is the most important and urgent issue to be solved, head of the main council of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] Jozef Zych told his supporters from Rzeszow Province on Sunday.

In Zych's opinion, further privatization "should be implemented under a special supervision of the parliament." That is why he intends to forward a proposal to the new Sejm concerning the setting up of an extraordinary committee for examining the to-date course of privatization and to eliminate errors.

He also announced that the PSL will once again lodge its motion on the holding of a national referendum on issues related to privatization and reprivatization.

Suchocka Spokesman Denies Opposition Accusations

LD0808205093 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] In an interview for Polish radio's first program, Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka's Press Secretary Zdobyslaw Milewski has disagreed with accusations made by some of the opposition that in the current transitory period, the government is working too actively and exceeding its powers.

[begin Milewski recording] The most obvious element in this answer is that were the government to work less actively, it would be showered with accusations that the government is not working actively enough and that it is not clear what it stands for. Anyway, to be fair, the opposition accusations say not only that the government is working too actively, but also that it is not working actively enough.

It is, as it were, obvious that we are now having an election campaign, and in this election campaign no one is mincing their words. The government is being attacked and the government is aware that the closer it gets to the elections the more it is going to be attacked. Now it is up to our listeners to judge when such attacks have some basis in fact and when they are purely and simply the election game. I think that in very many instances, if not in the vast majority of instances, this is pure and simple electioneering.

But to come back to the issue, the government is working, the government is performing the tasks which, from the legal point of view, it can perform. I can only confirm that it will continue to do so. [end recording]

Government Aiming for $6.4 Billion Deficit

LD0608184093 Warsaw PAP in English 1752 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 6—The Polish Government is aiming for a budget deficit of around 115 trillion zlotys (6.4 billion dollars) for the fiscal year 1994, according to outline budget proposals presented by Deputy Finance Minister Wojciech Misiag on Friday [6 August] following a session of the cabinet.

The proposals put forward by the council of ministers envisage receipts of 567 trillion zlotys (31.5 billion dollars),

While outgoings will be fixed at 682 trillion zlotys. Of the outgoings, the government plans that 374 trillions will be disbursed centrally, for social insurance payments, public debt service, local council subsidies and public-sector wage-increases.

The bulk of the budget receipts are set to come from VAT [value added tax], excise taxes and duty (275 trillion zlotys) and personal income tax (140 trillion

zlotys). Dividend payments from state-owned enterprises, and payments of the excess wage-increase tax (popiwek) will account for a further 15 trillion zlotys, Misiag announced.

According to Misiag, the government estimates that it has the means to finance around 87 trillion zlotys of the 115-trillion deficit.

Central Bank Head Discusses Banking Problems

LD0608184993 Warsaw PAP in English 1759 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 6—As many as 87 of Poland's cooperative banks and 7 commercial banks are close to bankruptcy, and the whole banking sector is in poor health, National Bank of Poland (NBP) President Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz told the Polish cabinet on Friday [6 August].

Speaking to journalists after her presentation to the cabinet, the NBP president said that the most important element in the crisis facing the banking system were the difficulties caused by the transformation of the Polish economy. She also drew attention to overdue credits run up by several leading bank commercial customers, and the lack of trained credit specialists working in Poland's banks.

The cabinet agreed to the creation of a working group to examine the problem, which will be lead by Deputy Prime Minister Henryk Goryszewski. The working group is to propose means of strengthening banks close to collapse.

Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz called for improvements in the supervisory system, and noted that detailed supervision was shortly to be implemented over around 800 of Poland's largely locally-based cooperative banks.

Railway Workers Get Pay Raise; Strike Averted

LD0608182393 Warsaw PAP in English 1740 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Poznan, Warsaw, Aug. 6—An agreement on pay rises for railwaymen concluded Friday [6 August] between railwaymen's unions and the management of the PKP state railways in western Poland removed the threat of strike in the region.

Under the agreement the railwaymen will get a rise in the monthly pay amounting on the average to 350 thousand zlotys (less than 20 U.S. dollars) which is being introduced retroactively as of July 1.

Simultaneously, talks between the PKP's general management and the Union of Train Drivers who are demanding an additional 30 per cent rise, have been suspended until August 9.

Agriculture Ministry Official Promises Sweeping Changes

LD0708193293 Warsaw PAP in English 1848 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, 7 Aug—Head of the Agriculture ministry Jacek Janiszewski, promised to make big changes at his ministry on Saturday [7 August].

Speaking at a meeting of the national political council of his Peasant Christian Party (SLCH), Janiszewski said that what he had seen since he became minister three weeks ago was worse than the worst managed countryside cooperative. He added that it had been unfortunate that the ministry was contolled by one political party.

"The agricultural policy conducted during the last one and a half years concerned the 4,000 farmers who were indebted to the banks, and not to any great extent the two and a half million family farms which exist in Poland," said Janiszewski.

Janiszewski devoted many of his critical remarks to the activities of the fund for restructuring and clearing the agricultural debt. "Three trillion zlotys (some 121.3 million dollars) were wasted in a few months. This money will never return to the treasury and it will not strengthen farming," explained the minister. He added that he would be reporting on the fund to Premier Hanna Suchocka.

Janiszewski intends to let local regional councils take responsibility for many of the present functions of the ministry. in this way, he says, a strong farming lobby will be created in a very short time.

At Saturdays meeting the slch national political council ratified the list of candidates to the Sejm (Lower House) of the Catholic electoral coalition (KKW) "Ojcowizna" (Fatherland) whose other member parties are the Christian National Union (ZCHN) and the Conservative Party (PK).

Miners' Strike in Jiu Valley Continues

Cosma's Claims Termed 'Indecent'

AU0608132593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1034 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 6/8/1993—"The salary claims of Miron Cosma are indecent and unacceptable. Romania's economy cannot bear them. If the government satisfied them, they would cause a deterioration of the social climate by creating gaps between the miners' salaries and those of other workers," Alexandru Rizea, member of the Executive Bureau of Romania's Miners' Federation [Romanian Miners' Federation] told daily CRONICA ROMANIA. "I told Cosma that he dares too much when he says he is the mouthpiece of all miners. He virtually speaks for the Jiu Valley basin miners, that is all," added Rizea, who specified that Romania's Miners' Confederation [Confederation of Mining Trade Unions of Romania], chaired by Miron Cosma, numbers 40,000 members. "They cannot speak for us all," underlined Rizea, one of the leaders of the Romanian's Miners' Federation, including all the mining basins in the country, with the exception of the Jiu Valley basin, and which numbers 120,000 members.

Court To Rule on Strike

AU0608150593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Owing to the situation created by the halting of mining activity in the Jiu Valley, the Ministry of Industry on 2 August sent a faxed message to the leadership of the Petrosani Pitcoal Public Corporation ordering it to take steps according to stipulations of Bill Number 15 of 1991, and forward a petition, on the basis of Article 33 of the same bill, to the local court requesting it to state that the [miners'] general strike, which has begun on 2 August, is illegal.

Furthermore, the communique says, on the basis of Article 30 of Bill 15 of 1991, the leadership of the public corporation was to request that the Supreme Court of Justice should rule in favor of suspending the strike. In message number 471 dated 3 August 1993, the chairman of the public corporation's administration board replied that, quote, the measures ordered by the ministry cannot be carried out owing to the exceptional situation that exists in the courtyard of the public corporation building, unquote. Subsequently, the administration board requested that the Supreme Court of Justice should suspend the general strike in the Jiu Valley, which was officially declared by the Petrosani Miners' Trade Union League and the Bucharest Miners' Trade Union Conference. The request has been forwarded to court under file number 2198/1993, and will be tried by the Bucharest Supreme Court of Justice at 1200 [0900 GMT] on Thursday, 12 August 1993. The court has summoned both parties to the conflict to attend the session, reads the communique sent to us by the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Industry.

Cosma Displays Statistics

AU0608202193 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Today, on the fifth day of the strike in Jiu Valley, the first shift miners continued their labor action at the mining units. According to ROMPRES, since no signal was received from Bucharest until 1800 hours [1500 GMT], the Strike Committee decided that the miners may leave their posts where they were carrying on their labor action, to be called back later if a government delegation arrives from Bucharest.

The Coordinating Council of the Mining Trade Union Confederation of Romania [CSMR] held an extraordinary meeting today at the headquarters of the Petrosani Public Pitcoal Corporation, which discussed the main effects of what the leaders of affiliated organizations called legal imperfections, more precisely the discrepancies between the Law on Labor Disputes and the Trade Union Law. Likewise, the participants in the meeting examined the prevailing state of mind of trade union members as well as certain organizational measures for the coming period.

According to ROMPRES, Mr. Miron Cosma, the Jiu Valley miners' leader, said that part of the CSMR affiliated trade unions from Gorj, Timis, and Mehedinti, have fulfilled all the legal conditions, and will join the strike. He said that he has sent the government a communique containing the comparative salaries of the Petrosani Public Pitcoal Corporation and the Tirgu Jiu Public Brown Coal Corporation, which shows that the basic average monthly salary demanded by the Jiu Valley miners, namely 174,968 lei, is only 4,968 lei higher than the salary of the Oltenia miners and complies with the executive power's directives that stipulate that the salaries of the Public Pitcoal Corporation of Romania—compared with those in other mining corporations in the country—should not exceed the basic average salaries by more than 30 percent.

Mr. Miron Cosma said that he does not withdraw the initial decision taken by the miners, namely to wait for a delegation of the executive power to come to Petrosani for negotiations.

Government Reiterates Position

AU0808181693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] The Romanian Government has faxed us a communique which emphasizes that, following talks conducted in Bucharest with representatives of the Petrosani Pitcoal Public Corporation and the Jiu Valley Free Trade Union League, the Government Press Bureau has been empowered to state as follows:

The government has appreciated and continues to appreciate the contribution made by the Jiu Valley miners to Romania's economic activity and recognizes the efforts

made by this important social segment under the difficult working conditions in mining units.

Romania's Government maintains its position—expressed in previous communiques—toward the unjustified claims made by trade union leaders, stressing once again that the average gross salary has to match existing correlations in the economy before negotiating the labor contract.

In conformity with legal provisions in force and in keeping with the ordinance on the rectification of the 1993 state budget, Romania's Government has approved 91 billion lei for the Petrosani Pitcoal Public Corporation, which will be used in keeping with established purposes: social protection costs, mining transportation, underground ventilation systems, wood supplies needed by mines, spare parts for coal conveyers and combines, improvement of medical assistance and rescue operations, and wages.

Romania's Government is concerned and works toward improving the working conditions of the miners in the Jiu Valley, solving problems linked to water and natural gas supplies for Petrosani municipality, and toward preserving facilities that were granted to the miners and their families in keeping with legal provisions in force.

Romania's Government once again asks the Jiu Valley miners to fully understand the current possibilities of the Romanian economy and to resume their activity in mining units, and emphasizes that, in conformity with legal provisions, wages cannot be paid during times of strikes, the communique received from the Press Bureau of the Romanian Government concludes.

Party Leaders View Strike

AU0708153593 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 4 Aug 93 p 3

["Statements by Party Leaders on the Crisis Caused by the Jiu Valley Strike"]

[Text] Emil Constantinescu (president of the Democratic Convention of Romania): The events in the Jiu Valley were foreseeable, but they can be judged only within a broader context regarding the entire period since 1989 and even what happened before that time. The Jiu Valley miners are not the only ones to be working under difficult conditions in our country. But the special nature of these claims sheds light on all past claims and actions by the miners. It is clear-cut that beginning with 1990 and up to now the miners and the executive power concluded a number of understandings. We are not even familiar with the promises made by the last government delegation when visiting the Jiu Valley during the congress of the Democratic National Salvation Front, the current Social Democracy Party of Romania [PDSR—FDSN].

Ion Diaconescu (first vice president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party—PNTCD): The PNTCD cannot encourage strikes as a means to satisfy social claims. At the same time, however, we have to recognize that our country's current economic situation is such that, generally speaking, it explains and justifies these strikes. In this specific case, we do not believe that the Jiu Valley or any other miners represent the segment that is mostly wronged. This will finally lead to another price increase.

Horia Rusu (executive president of the Liberal Party '93): The moment has finally come in which the current executive power will have to pay the bill for using the miners for political purposes. Using the miners for such purposes has led to constant blackmail on their part in order to have all their wage claims satisfied to the detriment of the remainder of the population. This is why currently more than two thirds of the costs for heating and electricity is borne by the population for the sake of the miners' wages. Since the Vacaroiu government is unable to protect the population against a new wave of price increases due to the miners' claims, the Liberal Party '93 favors the organization of a national referendum whereby our country's entire population should decide whether they want to endure greater poverty or not.

Declaration-Appeal by the Civic Alliance Party: The Civic Alliance Party [PAC] assesses that the current strike in the Jiu Valley, as well as the numerous strikes that have marked the government of the Social Democracy Party, the Romanian National Unity Party, the Socialist Party of Labor [PSM], the Greater Romania Party [PRM], and the Agrarian Democratic Party of Romania [PDAR], represent an indisputable public vote of nonconfidence in a government that has proved to be incapable of solving the serious problems of Romania today: inflation, unemployment, corruption, and an insufficient democratization of postcommunist institutions. Consistent with its previously expressed opinions, PAC believes that, to solve these problems, it is necessary for parliament to meet as soon as possible, and for the current government to be replaced by another one to match the current time and circumstances.
President: Nicolae Manolescu

Sergiu Cunescu (president of the Social-Democratic Party of Romania): This is a general social problem. We favor wage solidarity, meaning that we favor the preservation of a balance between the wages of all those who are working in our country and also relative to retired people's pensions. In our view, the miners' claims are excessive.

Nicolae Mantz (member of the PDAR Executive Bureau): Strikes cannot be a beneficial solution for the country's economy or our people's life, especially at a time of great economic difficulties which our country is experiencing. This is why it is absolutely necessary for both sides to continue the dialogue by showing understanding for the rational arguments raised, especially economic ones, so that claims are always rational and realistic, and so that constructive dialogue is not

replaced by demonstration of force or various forms of pressure, no matter by what side.

From the communique of the PDSR(FDSN): Being in solidarity with the miners' interests, we cannot agree with exaggerated claims that exceed the concrete possibilities of our national economy. This is why we request greater perception and realistic understanding for the current situation, the cessation of the strike, and the immediate commencement of work—the only solution to achieve outputs and appropriate wages. The PDSR believes that it is necessary for the Romanian Government, employers, and trade unions in the Jiu Valley to continue negotiations in a serious and thorough way on the basis of data and tangible calculations in order to adopt mutually acceptable solutions in the spirit of regulations in force.

Alexandru Chitera (PSM secretary in charge of organizational affairs): The Jiu Valley strike stems from dissatisfaction that has been accumulated in time because of the fact that the promises made during repeated negotiations were not honored.

C.V. Tudor (PRM president): Some of the miners have gone overboard. If the leaders who instigated the Jiu Valley do not understand that this country's budget is not a bottomless sack, then they will be bitterly disappointed and will sign their own public accusation act. I feel it is my duty to stop the miners from making themselves detestable by the people. To claim 200-300,000 lei wages today in a country that can hardly make ends meet is an irresponsible gesture.

Iliescu Returns From Latin American Tour

AU0608182993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1325 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 6/8/1993—President Iliescu came back to Romania Friday, August 6, from a political-diplomatic tour in four South American countries, i.e. Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia.

The businessmen who accompanied President Iliescu on his Latin American tour concluded contracts totalling more than $200 million.

President Iliescu was accompanied on his tour in four South American countries by businessmen from state-run, private of mixed companies. The following data were available to the press: 126 firms contacted in the four countries and 21 contracts concluded worth $205.1 million. Cooperation activities include the modernisation of the big aluminum-processing factory at Slatina, tractor, car and jeep assembling lines, preparation of copper concentrates, geological prospecting, wool processing, machine-tools production, wood exploitation and processing, food industry, sales of products manufactured in Romania.

Noteworthy are understandings for the opening of two credit lines between Romania and Colombia and the agreement between Romania's National Bank and Uruguay's National Bank according to which Romania is going to be returned the debts Uruguay and a number of countries that were included in the former Soviet Union have to pay to it.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 9 August

WA0908183993

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Bosnian Serbs scheduled to withdraw from strategic peaks overlooking Sarajevo; UN forces reportedly impeded from reaching area ... Heavy fighting between Muslims and Croats reported in central Bosnia ... Krajina Serbs continue to attack Maslenica bridge

MILITARY

SERBS TO HAND OVER SARAJEVO PEAKS (TANJUG, AFP): Bosnian Serb forces scheduled to give UN forces control of Mount Igman and Mount Bjelasnica, strategic peaks overlooking Sarajevo. While TANJUG reports first phase of UNPROFOR deployment being implemented, AFP quotes UNPROFOR official saying a "crowd of Serbian women," minefields have blocked UN patrols trying to reach area. (LD0908123093, AU0908140093)

CROAT-MUSLIM CLASHES IN MOSTAR: Zagreb Radio reports Muslims suffered "great losses" in an assault on Bosnian Croat forces near Mostar, claims 35 Croats reportedly hanged publicly in Zenica after refusing to be mobilized by Bosnian Army. According to Sarajevo Radio, Bosnian Army deputy commander called accusation pure propaganda." (LD0908084393, LD0708162493, AU0908081593)

KRAJINA SERBS ATTACK BRIDGE: TANJUG reports Krajina Serb forces "thwarted attempts" by Croatian Army to repair Maslenica bridge. Zagreb Radio says that Croatian Transportation Minister Mudrinic asks UNPROFOR to prevent further attacks. (LD0808105793, LD0708182093)

Serbs Agree To Hand Over Mount Bjelasnica

LD0908095193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0920 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, August 9 (TANJUG)—The army of the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina [VRS] is to start withdrawing its troops from strategic Mt. Bjelasnica, near Sarajevo, on Monday in order to cede it to the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), as proposed by Bosnian Serbs.

The agreement was reached by VRS General Staff Commander Gen. Ratko Mladic and UNPROFOR Commander for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Belgian Gen. Francis Briquemont at the Sarajevo Airport on Sunday night.

U.N. military observers have been positioned on Mounts Bjelasnica and Igman since Friday.

SRNA quoted Gen. Mladic as saying the VRS would withdraw from Mt. Bjelasnica to the 'distance from which it would be able to control the positions ceded to UNPROFOR.' In addition to gradual withdrawal from Bjelasnica, the VRS will continue ensuring the safe passage for humaniatarian convoys and the staff escorting them across Serb territories, Gen. Mladic said.

Commander of Moslem troops Rasim Delic left the talks after he had set the condition that the control of Mounts Bjelasnica and Igman be taken over by Moslem forces and not UNPROFOR. Until recently, Moslems positioned on Mounts Bjelasnica and Igman shelled not only Serb parts of Sarajevo, but also the Moslem-populated parts of the city, and then ascribed the shellings to the Serb side. Moslems used to provid arms and fresh troops via the two strategic mountains.

By constantly setting new conditions, Moslems have been trying to block or completely undermine the peace talks in Geneva, which ought to resume on Monday. During the past weekend, Moslems have been attacking Serb positions on the two mountains with a view to regaining the lost positions.

Karadzic: Serbs Withdrawing

AU0908090693 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] London, Aug 9 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb forces are already making a phased withdrawal from two strategic heights overlooking Sarajevo, their political leader Radovan Karadzic was quoted as saying Monday. "Step by step, we are withdrawing from these mountains, replacing our forces with the forces of U.N.," Karadzic told the BBC, referring to Mount Igman and Mount Bjelasnica.

"We will withdraw completely," Karadzic affirmed.

He said that at the end of the pullout, the U.N. forces would totally control the two heights, which the Serbs captured in the past 10 days.

Asked if that meant the shelling of Bosnia-Herzegovina's capital would stop, Karadzic replied: "Yes, absolutely."

Turning to the Geneva peace talks, which are due to resume Monday, Karadzic said the Bosnian Serb negotiators had no pre-conditions for a settlement. A successful outcome would depend on the mainly-Moslem Bosnia government delegation.

"If they are ready to accept reality, we are approaching peace," Karadzic said.

Last week Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, the head of the government delegation, withdrew from the conference, saying he could not attend while the Serbs were bombarding Sarajevo.

Mladic Agrees To Withdraw

LD0908000993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2225 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Aug. (TANJUG)—The Srpska republic army will withdraw from the summit of Mount Bjelasnica from 0400 GMT on 9 August, and UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] troops will take over control of this strategic point, SRNA reports.

This is the essence of an agreement reached by Lieutenantt-Colonel-General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Srpska republic army's main headquarters, and General Francis Briquemont, UNPROFOR commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

General Rasim Delic, commander of the Muslim army, abandoned today's talks before the final agreement was reached because Muslim conditions were not accepted. The Muslim side had demanded a complete withdrawal of the Serb army from Mount Igman and Mount Bjelasnica, after which Muslim forces and UNPROFOR would take over the control.

Tomorrow three platoons of UNPROFOR's French battalion and three Serb officers will go on a reconaissance mission toward Igman and Bjelasnica from the direction of the Sarajevo districts of Vojkovici, Hrasnica, and Hadzici. They will be joined by two Muslim liaison officers, who will arrive from the direction of Vojkovici and Hadzici.

After the meeting, General Ratko Mladic, commander of the main headquarters of the Srpska republic army, said that the Serb army will withdraw from the summit of Mt. Bjelasnica to a distance from which it will be able to have fire control of the positions handed over to UNPROFOR.

In the presence of General Briquemont, General Mladic made a pledge that the Srpska republic army will respect the cease-fire signed on 30 July and will respond to fire only when the lives of soldiers and their positions are under threat.

At the same time, according to General Mladic, the Srpska republic army will secure the free passage of

humanitarian convoys and personnel escorting them through Serb territories as it has been doing so far.

SRNA has learned that talks between the military delegations of the three warring sides are expected to continue at Sarajevo airport on 10 August.

UN Troops Scout Peaks

AU0908113293 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Aug 9 (AFP)—U.N. troops began scouting Monday two strategic heights to be handed over by Bosnian Serb troops and two relief corridors to the besieged Bosnian capital, the UNPROFOR here announced.

Barry Frewer, spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said three French patrols, a total of 150 men, headed Monday morning [9 August] to the strategic mounts of Igman and Bjelasnica overlooking Sarajevo.

The two heights were recently captured by the Serbs, whose withdrawal from the area was linked to a resumption of Geneva peace talks on the Bosnian crisis.

Frewer said the U.N. troops dispatched to the heights will be there for at least two days to assess the military situation.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic earlier told the BBC that Serb troops were already making a phased withdrawal from the two heights in order to be replaced by U.N. troops.

"We will withdraw completely," Karadzic affirmed.

Continued Serb Assault Reported

LD0808181593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Just occasional shots fired in the city and rare provocations by small-arms fire along the defense lines mean that this is a relatively rare peaceful day in Sarajevo, but on the other hand the Serbian and Montenegrin aggressor is continuing its offensive on Mount Igman.

According to our reporter on Igman, Mladic's artillery is continuing [words indistinct] with all weapons, with all calibers represented, from 82 to 155-mm. The aggressor is also undisturbed in its use of helicopters to transport personnel, and it is also using the Gazelle helicopters to fire missiles.

The conventional artillery preparations, already seen in this war, for the purpose of effecting an infantry breakthrough failed to achieve a result this time. The aggressor were unable to make a single infantry breakthrough.

For the umpteenth time in this war the Serbo-Montenegrin occupier has also been using banned military poisons designed to destroy the defense lines being held by fighters of Alija's [Izetbegovic's] Bosnia-Herzegovina. The defense lines have remained where they were and have been fully consolidated despite these constant attacks by the conquering host.

In its unsuccessful attempts to make infantry breakthroughs, the enemy, according to testimonies by fighters who took part in these battles, suffered great losses in personnel, and some equipment was also captured. All units of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina are in a harmonious defensive formation. Fighting is still going on. Only at night [words indistinct].

Muslims Reportedly Attack Serbs

LD0808141193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1353 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 8 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslems on Sunday [8 August] continue attacks on Serb positions and settlements in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb military sources say and add that Moslem attacks in the east of that former Yugoslav republic have been renewed.

On the Doboj front in the north, Moslem troops launched strong infantry and mortar attacks which incurred extensive material damage to the town itself, the sources say.

The Moslems also renewed infantry and mortar impacts on the Trebava front south of Doboj, they add.

The fronts at Maglaj and Teslic in central Bosnia were also activated when the Moslems shelled Serb villages, Bosnian Serb military sources say.

The Moslem offensive on the front at the central Bosnian town of Zavidovici also continued on Sunday, with fresh Moslem troops arriving from neighbouring Banovici.

The lull in the Zvornik area in eastern Bosnia continues for the fifth consecutive day, but some 100 kilometres further to the south the Moslems from Srebrenica renewed attacks on Serb positions in the night between Saturday and Sunday.

Bosnian Serb military sources in Bratunac report that the Serb side was forced to respond to the multi-pronged Moslem attack.

The Moslem enclave of Srebrenica, declared a U.N. safe area last may, should have been demilitarized last April.

AFP Reports Attack

AU0708181593 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Aug 7 (AFP)—The Bosnian army launched a surprise attack Saturday [7 August] on Serb forces holding the key strategic summit of Mount Bjelasnica overlooking Sarajevo, a reliable source said.

Commandos of the mainly-Moslem Bosnian forces armed with machine guns and automatic pistols

launched a strike early afternoon on positions occupied by a small contingent of Serbs.

Taken by surprise, the Serbs sustained heavy losses, the source said.

Serb Positions 'Consolidated'

LD0808125593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Sarajevo is still without water, electricity and gas. Although [Bosnian Serb army commander] Ratko Mladic told some foreign news agencies that Bosnian Serb forces have turned over important positions on mounts Igman and Bjelasnica to UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] troops, our correspondent Ranko Mavrak in Sarajevo reports that nothing has changed and that the Serbs remain on Igman and Bjelasnica.

[Mavrak] UNPROFOR's military observers have not registered any signs of a Serb withdrawal from Igman and Bjelasnica, UNPROFOR spokesman Barry Frewer said in Sarajevo today. This points to the conclusion that the Serbs have consolidated their positions on these mountains.

The presence of blue helmets in this area cannot yet allow them to claim that they know exactly what is going on. Frewer said he doubted a pullout could be realized until the conditions for this are precisely outlined. [passage omitted]

Serbs Claim Artillery Withdrawn

LD0708213893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2117 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Aug (TANJUG)—Members of the army of the republic of Srpska withdrew their heavy artillery to the approaches of Mt. Bjelasnica and Mt. Igman today in compliance with an agreement on cessation of hostilities in this area, a SRNA correspondent reports from the spot.

The Muslim side, however, violating the cease-fire, on several occasions today, tried to carry out an infantry breakthrough against Serb positions on Mt. Igman and Mt. Bjelasnica, which, as SRNA has reported, was registered by UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] members under the command of General Francis Briquemont.

Four UNPROFOR members have been deployed at two hills under the control of the Serb soldiers in this area.

UNPROFOR observers arrived on Mt. Igman and Mt. Bjelasnica last night. The observer team is made up of one officer each from the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, and Venezuela, SRNA reports.

Serbs Reportedly Use Transport Helicopter for Supplies

AU0908090493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0800 GMT on 9 August carries in its regular 14-minute newscast reports on the fighting in the Republic.

Reporting on a partially indistinct line from Brcko, Hamiz Deronjic says that "the enemy used antiaircraft machine guns, 60-mm mortars, and 90-mm portable M79 rocket launchers." The situation was almost the same on the central part of the front where the defenders came under attack from "mortars, portable rocket launchers, machine guns." Further on he says that "during the night, the enemy was bringing in tanks, vehicles, and ammunition. The aggressor is also using the air ways. At around 2100 [1900 GMT] last night, an enemy transport helicopter of the (?Mig-8) type was sighted flying over the area."

Velid Djindo reports from Olovo and says that "yesterday, the entire Olovo area was exposed to the aggressor's artillery fire. They used howitzers [words indistinct]. Overnight and early this morning, there was sporadic fire from 120-mm mortars. The defenders did not respond."

Reporting on an extremely poor line from the Doboj Press Center, Mirudin Aldobasic says that "the enemy continued provocations along the defense lines of the Doboj-Bosna 3d Motorized Brigade. The defenders did not respond." He adds that "the last convoy of humanitarian aid reached this area exactly five months ago. The last food supplies have been exhausted, so that now this part of our country is starving. There is no medicine, and many hospitals do not even have roofs."

Izetbegovic Sets Conditions for Participtions in Talks

LD0808172893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1652 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, August 8 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic on Sunday once again conditioned his participation in the Geneva peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, scheduled to resume on Monday.

REUTER quoted Izetbegovic as saying in a statement read to it over the phone by a member of the Bosnian Muslim leader's staff that the Muslim side would negotiate only after the international community increased pressure on Bosnian Serbs to withdraw from Mounts Bjelasnica and Igman, south-west of Sarajevo.

In order to help break the deadlock in the Geneva peace talks, which have been in a serious crisis because Izetbegovic has repeatedly been setting new conditions, Bosnian Serbs a few days ago agreed to withdraw from Bjelasnica

and Igman and have the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) take over control of the two mountains.

The only condition the Serbian side had set was that UNPROFOR provide a sufficient number of troops for the control of Bjelasnica and Igman in order to prevent the Muslim side from recapturing the two mountains which it had used until a week ago to shell the Serbian sections of Sarajevo and to supply Sarajevo Muslims with huge quantities of arms.

The Serbian forces have in the meantime started pulling out even their artillery from Bjelasnica and Igman, which Izetbegovic is ignoring. Izetbegovic is trying to delay a resumption of the Geneva talks in the hope that NATO will in the meantime carry out its threat and launch air strikes against forces of Bosnian Serbs, which would improve the Muslim side's poor military and negotiating positions.

Karadzic Rejects Muslim Conditions

LD0808212193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2038 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Aug (TANJUG)—If it is true that Izetbegovic wants to get back Zvornik, Visegrad, and Prijedor, and if he insists that we should also hand over Mount Bjelasnica and Mount Igman to the Muslims, then the Geneva conference is threatened, because these conditions are not going to be fulfilled—president of the Srpska republic Radovan Karadzic said in a statement for SRNA this evening.

On the eve of the resumption of the peace conference on former Bosnia-Herzegovina in Geneva tomorrow, Karadzic added that the Serb side is ready to hand over "Mount Bjelasnica and Mount Igman to be placed under the control of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] alone."

Karadzic added that the Serbs "could never hand over these mountains to their enemies, because the war is not over yet." "And when the war ends, we will reach agreement on the withdrawal of our troops behind the internationally approved borders."

Judging by the latest conditions and demands coming from Muslim-held Sarajevo on the eve of the Geneva negotiations, the president of the Srpska republic concluded that "the Muslim side is trying to find reasons to postpone the conference and prolong the war, because it is hoping to gain more in a war that at the conference."

"This is also a tactic of procrastination and gaining time. However, the reality has brought many solutions and they have to be taken into consideration," Karadzic added.

He welcomed a proposal put forward by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali today for the contentious issue of Sarajevo to be left open for a year or two, until conditions for its resolution have been met.

"If that is of any help, we can freeze the issue of Sarajevo until further notice, although I believe that it would be good to reach a comprehensive solution," Karadzic said, adding: "If there are many undisputed issues, which is the case, then it would be good to go along as Ghali has suggested—first to resolve these issues that are not contentious, and to leave Sarajevo for later."

The president of the Srpska republic confirmed that over the past few days the number of contentious issues has not decreased, but on the contrary, it has multiplied, particularly in central Bosnia where the Muslims are seizing more and more territory from the Croats.

"It is also in that offensive that Izetbegovic finds a reason for procrastinating, because his chance to get more territory, as he said, is great," Karadzic said.

Asked whether access to Brcko, which has been offered to the Muslims, will threaten the territorial continuity of the Srpska republic, Karadzic recalled that the Serb side has offered the Muslims a strip of territory along the Sava river and a part of Brcko with the right to pass through the territory of the Srpska republic.

"But we cannot allow that our entire Posavina, Krajina, and the republic of Serb Krajina depend on their goodwill and our right to pass through their territory. It will be opposite—it will be our territory and they will have the right to pass through."

Assessing the newly created situation in the wake of the Muslim attack on Mounts Igman and Bjelasnica today, Karadzic said that "we do not have to leave these mountains, but we wish to achieve an agreement with UNPROFOR on the handover of these strategic points."

Speaking about the possibility that the mountains at the southern approaches to Sarajevo should be given to the Muslims, the president of the Srpska republic was cathegorical:

"No international law compels us to return these mountains to our enemies. These territories can only become demilitarized zones or neutralized zones. In any case Muslim forces cannot enter them."

Asked whether air strikes on Serb positions, announced in Washington, could change the situation on the ground, Karadzic replied that "no military intervention can help Izetbegovic, it can only thwart all chances for peace and lead to chaos and bloodshed on the ground."

"However, Izetbegovic's military situation would not change. It is a fact that it is impossible to help somebody to create a state," Karadzic said, adding that Izetbegovic can achieve much more in peace through negotiations with the Croat and the Serb sides.

Gen Mladic Comments on War, U.S. Intervention

AU0808163693 Novi Sad DNEVNIK in Serbo-Croatian 6 Aug 93 p 3

["Special" interview with General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb army, by Dragisa Cosovic; place and date not given: "I Will Respect the Leadership's Decision"]

[Text] The peace negotiations in Geneva on the former Bosnia-Herzegovina have been temporarily interrupted. The Muslim side, encouraged by the possibility of strikes on the positions of the army of the republic of Srpska around Sarajevo, has exploited this and has withdrawn from the peace process. At the same time, Alija Izetbegovic, who is a loser in both the military and political sense, demanded the withdrawal of the army of the republic of Srpska from Mount Bjelasnica and Mount Igman to the positions it held on 30 July. He obviously needs to be informed that he is not in a position to make ultimatums. Someone will explain this to the Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic. He has already been told that by Lieutenant Colonel General Ratko Mladic, commander of the general command of the army of the republic of Srpska, in a special program of the Serbian Television Channel S in Pale. We used that opportunity to interview General Mladic.

[Cosovic] General, Alija Izetbegovic is demanding that you withdraw from Bjelasnica and Igman to the positions you held on 30 July. When did the army of the republic of Srpska liberate this area?

[Mladic] I warned the Muslims and their commanders. They did not take our warnings seriously. I told them not to attack us. They knew what was going to happen to them. They did not listen. They violated the cease-fire. They attacked the Dobro Polje region and killed seven members of the Gacko Brigade. What kind of commander would I be if I did not protect my fighters? In a fierce counterattack we liberated the Dobro Polje-Trnovo-Sarajevo road. The Muslim soldiers did not stop their attacks and we were forced to continue our operations. The army of the republic of Srpska was already on Mount Bjelasnica, Visocica, Igman, and Treskavica on 27 July. I do not see why I should justify myself. We did not declare war on anyone. They declared war on us. I visited Mount Igman yesterday. There is nobody there except our army. The muslim army fled like mad. In their retreat they burned down the hotels on Mt. Bjelasnica: the Ski Hotel, the International Youth Center, and the Famos Hotel, I think this is what it is called.

[Cosovic] Alija Izetbegovic claimed in Geneva that UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] units were not allowed to go to Bjelasnica and Igman, and that fighting is still going on there.

[Mladic] These are sheer lies. On Tuesday, 4 August [as published], I received UN officers on Bjelasnica. There were two officers from Argentina, one Russian, and one Kenyan officer. Nice guys. They saw for themselves that there was no fighting on Igman. Igman is under our control. The muslim army has fled. I could not catch them with a car. We captured a large amount of their equipment, we captured soldiers, ammunition, and artillery pieces. UNPROFOR members were present when the Muslims attacked us on Bjelasnica with 17 shells of 15 mm. They will never use these guns again.

[Cosovic] Almost all world media have been accusing the army of the republic of Srpska of carrying out aggressive activities. You have even been accused of flying in a helicopter. They are crying over the defeat of the Muslims.

[Mladic] They surely do not expect me to go on a donkey. I am a general, commander of the army of the republic of Srpksa. Why didn't those international rags write a word about the knot (the communications center) of the Yugoslav People's Army in Mt. Bjelasnica? Our soldiers were without electricity, water, food.... The soldiers were butchered, killed. They did not mourn and write about that then. What do they want now?

[Cosovic] The army of the republic of Srpska controls 72 percent of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. So, there is ample territory. It is known that URS [expansion unknown] is not in favor of the war. The Serbs are now being accused of allegedly carrying out an offensive on Sarajevo. NATO, the United States, everyone is worried and up in arms about it. Will the Serbian army go on to Sarajevo?

[Mladic] First of all, I do not know who calculated this percentage figure. I want everyone to get what belongs to him and to be the master on his own land. The Muslims wanted this war. They must bear the consequences for it. Why did NATO and the United States not express any concern after the slaughter of our army in Dobrovoljacka Street in Sarajevo? They opened fire on an UNPROFOR personnel carrier—it was Jovan Divljak, not Dijak and his hordes. What do they want now? I am neither carrying out offensive operations against Sarajevo nor do I want to take it militarily. We have made a number of concessions. I very reluctantly ordered our soldiers to withdraw from the Sarajevo airport. They are now using it for arms deliveries. They are digging a tunnel under the runway, toward Hrasnica. They will now have to dig one under Igman and Bjelasnica. Their routes via Igman and Hrasnica have been cut. It is better for them to sit down and negotiate. Our army will wait for the politicians' agreement. And theirs? Who is trying to scare us with military intervention, and why? In the past year, the army of the republic of Srpska has only been protecting its towns, villages, hearths, graves....

[Cosovic] You do not believe in military intervention?

[Mladic] In what way are we threatening the United States and its interests? In what way do we bother it? In what way have we threatened anyone? Our army is not in a foreign country. We are only protecting what is ours. Don't those who want to attack us think that the war

would not spread? Why are those who caused the war not punished? These are Franjo [Tudjman] and Alija [Izetbegovic]. They broke up Yugoslavia with the help of others. It is their own armies that are now fighting each other in central Bosnia and the Neretva valley. Someone is trying to deliberately marginalize these clashes. Is the top of Mt. Bjelasnica really more important than Mostar, Prozor, Gornji Vakuf.... No one is asking what the army of the republic of Srpska has done for the Muslims and the Croats. Both are pleading for help. We are rescuing those who had been shooting at and killing the Serbs. Anyhow, we must help the civilians. Why is nothing said or written about this?

[Cosovic] There are increasingly frequent accusations in the world that you are not obeying the supreme commander, Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, and that you are doing as you please.

[Mladic] I must say it again that when Yugoslavia was broken up no one made any fuss about it. The Serbs were killed, butchered, tortured, exterminated, expelled.... They were calmly watching all that. Now they know it all. I do not have any reason to express and show my loyalty to anyone. Our decisions are not the decision of one person, but collective decisions. Who can order a withdrawal if a peaceful solution has not been found? No one. First an agreement, and then the withdrawal. It is of curse, politicians who must find a solution and an answer. The army of the republic of Srpska will respect it, as it has done in the past.

[Cosovic] One of the points of the peace agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina, if it is accepted, of course, is demilitarization. Do you believe in it?

[Mladic] The Serbs are waging a war for their survival for the fifth time in this century. No one else will protect us. How did the Serbs in the republic of Serb Krajina fare, in Kasic, Zemunik? Have we not had enough of knives and slaughter? I am a soldier. I will respect the decisions of the political leadership. I only want to say that we have the right to defend ourselves. Those who broke up Yugoslavia should be punished. Who has the right to simply erase a country with a rubber eraser? Has anyone the right to deprive us of a struggle for bare life? We are not threatening anyone. We are not stupid. I ask you: Who will guarantee us demilitarization? Islamic countries are supplying the Muslims with arms. They are buying arms. They have everything. What have we got? Sanctions!

At the end of the interview Lieutenant Colonel General Mladic emphasized that for everything that the Serbian people in the republic of Srpska have they should be grateful to ordinary soldiers, those whose lives were in danger every day. They also created the republic of Srpska. According to the commander of the army of the republic of Srpska, we owe them a lot.

[Box, p 3]

Why Are They Delaying Talks?

A meeting of the commanders of the three armies was supposed to be held at Sarajevo airport the day before yesterday [4 August]. At the scheduled time the Muslim representative [Commander of the Bosnian Army] Rasim Delic did not turn up. When we asked why the commander of Alija's army did not come, General Mladic said:

They are probably still looking for him on Igman. The Muslims want to gain in time and improve their positions in the clashes with the Croatian Defense Council in central Bosnia.

Serbs in Tuzla, Banovici Face 'Extermination'

LD0708175893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1617 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Zvornik, Aug 7 (TANJUG)—Thousands of Serb civilians in the Tuzla and Banovici region, a Moslem enclave in northeastern Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH), are confronted with the complete physical extermination after a great many calls to international humanitarian organizations to came to their rescue have remained futile.

Vojislav Djurkovic, senior official of the exchange commission of the Serb Republic (S.R.), told TANJUG on Saturday [7 August] that Serb civilians in Tuzla and Banovici have been most brutally persecuted for months and treated by Moslem authorities as ethnic hostages.

Around 18,000 Serbs were living in Tuzla before the civil war broke out in this ex-Yugoslav republic 16 months ago.

Tuzla is one of the six U.N.-declared "safe areas" for Moslems in addition to Sarajevo, Bihac, Gorazde, Srebrenica and Zepa.

International relief is particularly directed to these areas, where, however, the survival of Serbs depends on the local Moslem authorities.

In Djurkovic's words, Serbs increasingly often try desperately to break out of Tuzla through an encirclement of mine fields.

Serbs are not allowed food, not even that arriving as international humanitarian aid via eastern Bosnia through the territory of the Serb Republic.

Djurkovic said young Serb men or even boys were increasingly often forced to join the frontline Moslem formations.

He reiterated a call to international humanitarian organizations to send in aid to the threatened Serbs at the soonest.

He explained that in the past the Serbs in Tuzla were assisted by the local Croats as much as they could, but the Croats, too, have become endangered since fierce Moslem-Croat fighting broke out in the BiH a few months ago.

Croat-Muslim Fighting Reported in Mostar

LD0908084393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Infantry of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Muslim army were engaged in fighting along the demarcation line in the center of Mostar throughout the night. Muslim forces attempted an infantry breakthrough near Bijelo Polje, but they were halted and suffered great losses when they were pushed back to where they started from. In the vicinity of the Bijelo Polje area, HVO fighters destroyed two vans being driven by Muslim soldiers.

South of Mostar, near the airport, seven members of a Muslim sabotage group were killed as they tried to break through in the Buna area.

Muslims, Croats Renew Clashes

LD0708145493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1433 GMT 7 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Trebinje, August 7 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Croat troops launched a strong attack on Moslem positions in Mostar on Saturday morning [7 August], sources of the Bosnian Serbs holding positions above this town in central Herzegovina say.

The command of local Bosnian Serb units says the Bosnian Croat troops have engaged in a decisive battle with Moslems in Mostar valley, adding that the worst fighting was taking place in the south of Mostar area.

Croatian and Moslem Radios keep silent about the clashes.

Bosnian Moslems and Croats, until recently allies against Bosnian Serbs, have been fiercely fighting each other since the beginning of the year in order to gain control over the territories with mixed Moslem-Croat populations.

Moslems launched an infantry attack on Friday-Saturday night first in Bijelo Polje, 10 kilometres north of Mostar, and then also in Mostar itself, Croatian Radio Zagreb reported on Saturday.

The radio claimed that all attacks had been repulsed and that the Moslem troops had substantial losses.

Muslim Attacks Reported

LD0808194693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1841 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, August 8 (TANJUG)—Muslim Forces on Sunday resumed attacks on the Croatian positions in the central part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to Zagreb-based Croatian Radio.

The Muslim side resumed also heavy attacks on Croatian civilians and military units in Uskopolje (formerly Gornji Vakuf), the Radio Station Uskopolje of the Croatian state community Herceg-Bosna said on Sunday.

Commander of the Croatian Forces in Uskopolje Nikola Pilic on Sunday stated to the Radio Station Uskopolje that the Croatian Forces in the area had consolidated their ranks and would defend Uskopolje against the Muslim aggressor and soon win back the lost Croatian territories in the upper section of the River Vrbas, including the town of Bugojno.

Referring to the offer made by Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic that Croats and Muslims create a common republic within the future Union of Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Pilic said the offer was another ploy.

"He (Izetbegovic) has realized that he is finished, because he has lost the war against the Serbs, and if he keeps on he will lose it also against the Croats," Pilic said.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats, former allies in the war against the local Serbs, have been engaged in fierce mutual clashes as of four months ago, fighting for territories with mixed, Muslim-Croatian populations.

Croats Reported Publicly Hanged in Zenica

LD0708162493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The radio of the Croatian community of Herzeg-Bosna has reported that the situation in Vares is very difficult. [passage omitted]

According to the testimonies of refugees, a general mobilization of Muslims and the remaining Serbs and Croats is in progress in Kakanj. In Zenica, 35 Croats refused to be mobilized by Muslim forces and they were hanged on the square outside the local Catholic church, Herzeg-Bosna radio has reported.

TANJUG Reports Incident

LD0808140593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1332 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, August 8 (TANJUG)—Moslems in Kakanj in central Bosnia hanged 35 local Croats because they had refused to fight with the Moslem troops, a Bosnian Croat military official said on Sunday [8 August].

The AFP news agency quotes the official, Vaso Vegar, as saying that the hanging took place outside the local Catholic church as a warning to all those who refuse to join the Moslem troops.

The Moslems in central Bosnia are mobilizing Moslems, Serbs and Croats alike, said Vegar.

Bosnian Moslems and Croats, until recently allies against local Serbs, have been fiercely fighting each other since the beginning of the year and especially in the last four months for territories with mixed Moslem-Croat population.

The heaviest fighting on Sunday has been reported in the area of the strategically important town of Gornji Vakuf in central Bosnia.

Croatian radio reports that Moslems fired mortar shells at the Croat-controlled town of Novi Travnik, also in central Bosnia, on Saturday evening.

The same source says that Moslems continue their attacks on Mostar in central Herzegovina on Sunday, and that one person has been killed in the attacks.

Army Leader Dismisses Allegation

AU0908081593 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Zagreb, Aug 8 (AFP)—The Bosnian Croat militia force accused Bosnian Moslem forces Sunday of having hanged 35 Croats for allegedly refusing to join the mainly Moslem Bosnian government army.

Veso Vegar, spokesman of the Croat Defence Council (HVO) in Mostar, said the 35 who had fled the town of Zenica were hanged on the forecourt of the Catholic church in Kakanj, southeast of Zenica, "to discourage any others."

The United Nations Protection Force, which has no observers in the area, said it had no information on the matter.

In Sarajevo, Bosnian army deputy commander Colonel Stjepan Siber described the HVO accusation as "pure progaganda" and said it was "not the first time the Croat media have been spreading such lies."

"Nothing happened in Kakanj as far as I know," Siber said. "I'm almost a thousand percent sure it's a lie."

The radio of Herceg-Bosna, the self-proclaimed Croat entity in Bosnia, quoted by the Croatian news agency HINA, reported the hangings on the basis of accounts given by refugees from Kakanj.

Before the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kakanj had 55,000 inhabitants, of whom 54.5 percent were Moslem, 29.8 percent Croats and 8.8 percent Serbs, according to official figures.

Reached by telephone from Zagreb, Vegar also said that the Bosnian army had for the last few days been engaged in a "general mobilisation" in the area, recruiting all men of an age to fight, be they Moslems, Serbs or Croats.

Croats Meet With UNHCR, UNPROFOR

LD0808154493 Mostar Croatian Radio Herceg-Bosna in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] At the instigation of Dr Mate Granic, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Croatia, officials of the Croatian government have had a meeting with representatives of the Croatian Defence Council [HVO] of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna, led by Dr Jadranko Prlic, and with officials of the international organizations of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR]. The meeting took place in the Hotel Meteor in Makarska.

Discussions took place on the implementation of the Makarska agreement signed at the beginning of July about the dispatch of aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The main topics were the freedom of movement of the humanitarian convoys, about the overall humanitarian situation, about the large number of refugees from central Bosnia who have come to Herzegovina, and about prisoners of war. This seems to have been a very successful meeting with the UNHCR and with the civilian and military officials of UNPROFOR. It was concluded that over the past seven to 10 days the first major results have been achieved in the implementation of the Makarska agreement, especially regarding the freedom of the movement of the humanitarian convoys. In the process free access for officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to prison camps has been guaranteed and an agreement has been reached on a meeting next week with officials of this organization as well as with UNPROFOR and the UNHCR.

Our proposal that the ICRC organize a meeting with Muslim representatives on exchange of prisoners was accepted, Dr Mate Granic stated. An encouraging piece of news, Granic added, is that the first convoy with 86 trucks which has been organized by Muslims and Croats will set out on Thursday 12 August. This was agreed in Split. There was also an agreement to dispatch 120 tonnes of aid to Muslims and Croats in Mostar.

After the meeting, Dr Jadranko Prlic said that the officials of the international organizations who took part in today's meeting—we quote—did not have a single

objection to our behavior as regards the free passage of humanitarian convoys. The HVO of the Croatian community of Herceg-Bosna in Herzegovina does not wish in any way to use humanitarian aid as a weapon for the attainment of any aims whatsoever in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, something which was confirmed at today's meeting, Prlic added.

It was also agreed that a similar meeting will soon be held with Muslim representatives in Zagreb.

Boban: Izetbegovic Trying to Wreck Geneva Talks

LD0808160393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Report by Zdenko Vranjes]

[Text] Commenting on a letter by Alija Izetbegovic offering a joint Muslim-Croat republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mate Boban, president of the Croatian community of Herzeg-Bosna, said today that the aim of the letter is to break up the Geneva negotiations and destroy attempts for a viable and fair agreement to be reached between all the three nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At a news conference today, Boban added that he is convinced that Croatian President Dr Franjo Tudjman will respond to the letter and that what Mr. Izetbegovic is really trying to do with the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina is best shown by actions of the Muslim army.

The Muslim forces this morning attacked the areas of Kiseljak, Kresevo, and the free area of Fojnica. Because of increasingly frequent artillery shelling from Muslim positions, a general alert was sounded for all these towns. The Croatian Defense Council [HVO] has announced that HVO formations repelled all attacks.

Fighting around Gornji Vakuf continued today but at a lower intensity. HVO forces in this area have reinforced the positions they seized in recent fighting. Sporadic infantry attacks by Muslim forces took place also around Vitez today. They have been repelled, but under the impact of mortar shells which sporadically rained on the center of Busovaca and Novi Travnik, one person was wounded and fresh material damage was caused.

The Muslim side today switched off the water supply to Vitez and the surrounding area. This left a Franciscan hospital in Nova Bila without water. Mostar has been relatively peaceful today.

Bosnian Croats Give Advance Warning to Spanish Troops

LD0708192793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1916 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, August 7 (TANJUG)—U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo Barry Frewer on Saturday [7 August] said the Spanish U.N. peacekeeping troops in the Herzegovina town of Jablanica had on Friday received an advance warning from Bosnian Croats that they would again shell the Muslim positions close to the U.N. troops.

The barracks of the U.N. Spanish troops in Jablanica were shelled last week. One Spanish soldier was killed and 17 were wounded.

Bosnian Croats are believed to have been responsible for the shelling.

REUTER quoted frewer as saying that Bosnian Croat Forces (HVO) had warned the Spanish U.N. battalion to take cover, then fired 20 shells and called back again to say the barrage was over.

The U.N. investigations into which side was responsible for the fatal direct hit on the Spanish U.N. base last week continue. However, the Spanish Defense Ministry has said the HVO artillery was probably responsible.

The Jablanica area and other parts of northern Herzegovina and Central Bosnia have for the past three months been the stage of fierce clashes between Bosnian Croats and Muslims, former allies in the war against the local Serbs. Bosnian Croats and Muslims have been fighting for territories with mixed, Muslim-Croatian populations.

Karadzic Offers 'Peace Now' Marchers Safe Passage

LD0808133593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1157 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Aug (TANJUG)— Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska today offered the help of the Serbian authorities and army to the pacifists who set out on their march to Sarajevo about 10 days ago.

In a statement to TANJUG, President Karadzic confirmed that he has already sent this offer to Ferdinand Cabrini, the secretary general of the "Peace Now" committee in Geneva.

Learning that the "Peace Now" project had experienced difficulties as a result of the fighting between Muslims and Croats in central Bosnia, "we offered not only a completely safe and free passage to Sarajevo, but also to other places the pacifists want to get to via our territory," Karadzic stressed.

"In addition, we have offered full hospitality to the peace convoy and those taking part in the march," he added in a telephone conversation with a TANJUG correspondent.

Karadzic explained that peace prevails on the territory of the republic of Srpska and that there is no fighting. All those who come in order to promote peace will be given a warm welcome, he said.

About 2,500 pacifists from 23 countries plan to arrive in Sarajevo via central Bosnia and to hold a demonstration

on 7 August under the "Peace Now" banner. However, the pacifists have been held up in Prozor since Thursday [5 August].

March Had Been Abandoned

AU0608162593 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Lyons, France, Aug 6 (AFP)—A convoy of 1,000 peace activists to Sarajevo has decided to turn around and give up its goal of reaching the besieged Bosnian capital because of the danger, the Lyons-based aid organisation Equilibre said Friday [6 August].

The convoy of 100 vehicles, called Peace Now, left the Croatian port of Split on Wednesday and arrived at Prozor, halfway to Sarajevo, early Thursday.

Equilibre said it had received a radio message from one of the convoy's organisers, Alain Michel, who said that it had been decided to go back because it was too dangerous to cross the territory ahead.

Some of the convoy, notably Italians, had refused to give up the idea of going on to Sarajevo, another 200 kilometres (125 miles) from Prozor, he said. But many had already started the journey back to Split, where they planned to hold a rally on Saturday.

He pointed out that if NATO bombed the heights overlooking Sarajevo the convoy risked being taken hostage.

The decision had been dictated "for reasons of safety and responsibility and should not be seen as a failure," he emphasised.

Activists taking part in the convoy are from France, Spain, Italy, Poland and Sweden.

UN Commander Briquemont Criticizes Air Strike Threats

AU0608122693 Paris AFP in English 1153 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Aug 6 (AFP)—U.N. commander General Francis Briquemont criticised Friday [6 August] the U.S. proposals to bomb Serb artillery as the Bosnian Serb and government commanders met at Sarajevo airport to discuss a withdrawal plan.

"We are on a peace-keeping mission in a zone where there has never been peace," said Briquement, the commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"To make threats, that is easily said but difficult to carry out. Those who would (carry out air-strikes) should come to Sarajevo and study the map with me."

The U.N. forces are known to want control over air-strikes, fearing that they will trigger Serb retaliation against the peacekeepers.

Briquemont spoke to reporters as a meeting got underway at Sarajevo airport between Bosnian Serb commander, General Ratko Mladic, and the commander of government troops, General Rasim Delic.

The generals have agreed to work out details for a Serb withdrawal from Mount Igman and Mount Bjelasnica, two heights overlooking Sarajevo, as announced by Geneva peace conference co-chairman Thorvald Stoltenberg earlier Friday.

The Serbs have said they will withdraw their forces from these heights so long as U.N. troops take them over to prevent the return of the Bosnian government army.

Independent military observers here say the Bosnian army considers the two hills as vital for a clandestine supply route into the city. The Serbs conquered most of the heights this week.

Briquemont said he would be raising with the rival generals the issue of Project Lifeline, the U.N. plan to supply central Bosnia by road from Croatia.

Agreement Reached on Aid Corridors for Sarajevo

LD0808101593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0930 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, August 8 (TANJUG)—Representatives of Bosnian Serbs, Moslems and Croats agreed late on Saturday to open Sarajevo-Mostar and Sarajevo-Visoko corridors for convoys carrying humanitarian aid to the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA has reported that the agreement was reached with the mediation of representatives of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) at a meeting held at Sarajevo Airport on Saturday. The agreed corridors should be opened on Monday at 9 a.m. (07:00 GMT).

Prime Minister of the Bosnian Serb Republic Vladimir Lukic, who took part in the talks, said he believes an agreement on Sarajevo- Blazuj-Kiseljak-Busovaca-Vitez-Novi Travnik-Bugojno corridor will soon be reached.

Serb Attack on Maslenica Bridge Reported

LD0908075293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0700 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] It has not been a quiet night anywhere in the Zadar-Biograd area [in western Croatia]. At about 0800 this morning the Serbs attacked the building site at the Maslenica pontoon bridge at the Novsko straits. They fired three artillery shells from Debelo Brdo. At the time of the attack workers were present on the building site carrying out repair work on the Maslenica pontoon bridge. According to what we have learned so far, there were no casualties in this attack.

Otherwise, preparatory work on repairs to the pontoon bridge at the Novsko straits has been completed. The pontoon section, which is to replace the part that was sunk, is in a safe place in the waters of the Zadar area, not far from the Novsko straits, and is completely ready to be put in position. The only thing that still needs remains to be done is the replacement of the sunken section with the new one. Two days are needed for this work. The bridge will then be ready to take traffic.

TANJUG Reports Attack

LD0808105793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0936 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Knin, 8 August (TANJUG)— Units of the Serb army of Krajina last night opened fire in the region of Maslenica bridge and thwarted attempts by the Croatian Army to proceed with repair work on the pontoon bridge, the main headquarters of the Serb army of Krajina announced today.

According to the announcement, the Krajina fighters opened fire in line with their supreme command's decision to ban repair work and the possible use of the bridge until the Croatian side begins honoring the provisions of the Erdut agreement. This decision also applies to Zemunik airport and the Peruca hydroelectric power plant.

The same source claims that the Croatian side has no intention of withdrawing its forces from the occupied areas of Krajina and the UN protected area zones. On the contrary, the announcement points out that the Croatian Army is regrouping and bringing in fresh troops and military equipment in certain sectors of the northern Dalmatian front and along the entire demarcation line between the two belligerent sides.

For this reason, the command of the Serb forces believes that Croatia will try to resort to the use of force in dealing with the republic of Serb Krajina. Starting from this premise, the Command of the Serb army of Krajina stresses that "new aggressive adventures should be expected on the part of the enemy side."

UNPROFOR Asked To Stop Attacks

LD0708182093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Croatian Minister of Transport and Communication Ivica Mudrinic has sent a letter to the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] commander for sector south, French General Bernard Baudet, asking UNPROFOR to intervene with the local Serb authorities in Knin to stop attacking the Maslenica pontoon bridge. Minister Mudrinic's letter to Gen Baudet says:

Due to incessant attacks by Serbian forces on the Maslenica bridge since 1 August, when they destroyed one of the barges, our efforts to repair the damage have been thwarted. The latest attack took place today. We want UNPROFOR to intervene with the local Serbian authorities in Knin and make sure that attacks in this area cease. Apart from that, we would like to repeat our appeal for the deployment of UNPROFOR troops in the area of the Maslenica bridge, including the bridge and Zemunik airport, and we are ready to accept technical aid for the reconstruction of the bridge.

Let me stress that the reopening of the Maslenica bridge is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 847 and we are awaiting your assistance.

In a letter to General Cot, dated 6 August, I demanded that an UNPROFOR representative be appointed to a technical commission tasked with testing the technical safety of a bridge connecting the island of Pag with mainland Croatia, across which most of the Dalmatia-bound traffic travels at present. There are some indications that this bridge will have to be closed to all vehicles over two tonnes. If that happens, the Maslenica bridge will become the only possible link with southern Croatia for heavy freight vehicle traffic, including humanitarian aid convoys for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Minister Mudrinic's letter to the UNPROFOR commander for sector south, Gen Baudet, says in conclusion:

We expect the UNPROFOR to respond to our appeal in accordance with its mandate and make sure that our efforts materialize so that the bridge will be made available to all citizens of Croatia.

RSK Ready To Share Bridge After Croatian Withdrawal

LD0808140693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1156 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, 8 Aug (TANJUG)—The Government of the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] is ready to reach peace through negotiations if the UN secretary general and the Security Council guarantee that Croatia will in future respect and implement the provisions of each agreement. This is stated in a letter from RSK Prime Minister Djordje Bjegovic, sent today to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

"You have the right to request this of Croatia," the letter stresses, which was also sent to information media today, "because it is a member of the United Nations and is to blame, through its state terror, for separating Croatia from the Serbian ethnic community, thus causing the creation of two states—the RSK and the Republic of Croatia."

Recalling the peace agreement between the governments of the RSK and Croatia in Erdut and Zagreb on 15 and 16 July 1993, Bjegovic stresses that his government "is not able to accept the behavior of the government in Zagreb," which has refused to implement the provisions of this agreement.

"The RSK government is also unable to find reasons for initiating fresh negotiations at a time when Croatia is refusing to implement the conclusions of the aforementioned agreement," the letter adds.

Stressing that "in the former Croatia, 30 percent of the population were Serbians—and not 11 percent as Croatia falsely states"—Bjegovic stresses that "the Serbian people have every right to their own state." "My government considers the RSK state border to be the line of demarcation established on 3 January 1992, which the Croatian Army has violated in three armed attacks on Krajina—two in 1992 and one in 1993," the text of the letter stresses.

Recalling that on the occasion of these attacks Croatia occupied three important facilities in Krajina—Maslenica bridge, Zemunik Airport, and Peruca dam—Bjegovic stresses that his government "is even today ready for Croatia, together with us, to use these facilities, but only when it withdraws its army and police from occupied territory."

RSK Official Reaffirms Readiness To Reach Accord

LD0808195493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1851 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 8 (TANJUG)—Prime Minister of the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) Djordje Bjegovic on Sunday [8 August] reaffirmed the RSK's readiness to reach peace with Croatia through negotiations if U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the U.N. Security Council "warranted that Croatia would observe and implement the terms of every agreement."

Bjegovic asks Butrus-Ghali to demand Croatia's respect of the agreements as a U.N. member. He said Croatia was "guilty of applying state terrorism by which it dissociated itself from the Serb ethnic community and as a result the two states, the RSK and Croatia, have been formed."

The RSK was set up in Serb-populated parts of Croatia in response to Croatia's secession and its intention to reduce the status of Serbs to that of a national minority. Since March of last year, the RSK has been an "UNPA" (U.N. Protected Area).

As for the Erdut Agreement signed mid-July by the Governments of the RSK and Croatia, Bjegovic said the Croatian side disrespected the agreement and hence "the RSK could not accept such a conduct of the government in Zagreb."

"The RSK government also cannot find reasons for starting fresh talks, when Croatia rejects the application of the terms embodied in the previous agreements," Bjegovic says in his letter to Butrus-Ghali.

The Erdut Agreement required Croatia to pull out its forces by July 31 from RSK areas occupied in its aggressions of January 22, 1993, and June 22, 1992, but it failed to fulfill this obligation even after two deadline extensions.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic has recently asserted that Croatia in fact has not signed this agreement, although the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] said the agreement was for them valid and was binding for the Croatian side.

Unlike the Croatian side, the RSK has completely met the agreement terms and allowed Croatia to re-open to traffic the Maslenica bridge and Zemunik Airport in the hinterland of the middle Adriatic city port of Zadar on July 18.

"Living in former Croatia, there were 30 per cent, not 11 per cent of Serbs, as Croatia had falsified," said Bjegovic and added that the "Serb people had every right to the state of their own."

"My government regards the RSK state border as a demarcation line since January 3, 1992, which was violated by the Croatian Army three times in its attacks on the RSK, twice last year and once this year," says Bjegovic in his letter to Butrus-Ghali.

Recalling that in these attacks, Croatia occupied the three major facilities—Maslenica bridge, Zemunik Airport, Peruca high dam—Bjegovic says his government "is also today prepared for (allowing) Croatia, together with ourselves, to use these projects, but only once it has withdrawn its army and police from the territories it occupied."

Army Protests UN's 'Cynical Insinuations'

LD0708190393 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] The head of the (Croatian) Defense Ministry's Political Department, Drago Krpina, issued a statement in connection with the Serbian attacks on the Maslenica bridge and certain international interpretations in this regard:

More than 100 shells landed in the above-mentioned area since the beginning of the attacks on 1 August until

the morning of 2 August, which prompted the representatives of the Croatian Army to send as many as 34 letters of protest to UNPROFOR's [United Nations Protection Force] command for sector south. All claims contained in the letters of protest have been confirmed by UNPROFOR representatives, who were present when the events took place, as well as by the Serbian side itself, which issued a special announcement.

The camera crews of some foreign news agencies covered the moments when Serb terrorists fired their artillery shells in the direction of Maslenica bridge and possess footage on their impact in the immediate vicinity of the bridge.

It should also be added that the Croatian Army did not respond to these attacks by firing even one single bullet, in strict accordance with the orders of the Croatian Army's GS, which has been confirmed by UNPROFOR's military observers.

However, despite all the evidence submitted, an internal bulletin on UNPROFOR's activities in the region of former Yugoslavia distributed at UN headquarters cites the possibility of a sabotage operation carried out by local Croatian bandits as a possible cause for the destruction of the Maslenica pontoon bridge.

We wish to express our dismay and infuriation and to protest over the maliciousness and cynicism with which a distorted picture of the events in Croatia is being painted before the eyes of the world. It should also be said that this is not the first time such an attempt has been made.

We expect the officials in charge of UNPROFOR's mission to distance themselves energetically and publicly from such insinuations and to deal adequately with those responsible for them. Namely, we believe that cooperation is possible only through respect for facts and a maximum of professionalism.

Belgrade Radio Reports Fighting

AU0708143393 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Report by Damir Kozul from Benkovac]

[Text] Explosions can be heard again today after a relative quiet during the last 48 hours on the Benkovac-(?Rovac) front. The enemy army in the occupied Serbian villages has again been mining houses, while at about 1100 six destructive howitzer projectiles were fired from the direction of Svilnica at the wider region of (?Kajina), fortunately without serious consequences. The Serbian army did not respond.

Croatian Radio Zadar reports that new barges, as they say, which are elements for the repair of the Maslenica pontoon bridge, are being shipped in. It also announces that the bridge will be repaired soon and opened to transportation.

However, the Serbian army is closely watching all the enemy activities and will not allow any unilateral actions concerning the bridge or the Zemunik airport. After attempting to infiltrate the combat units of the Serbian army, the members of the Canadian and French battalions of UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Forces] pulled back to their previous positions in the region of (?Gracac).

Army Artillery Reportedly Pounds Gracac 9 Aug

LD0908095293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0928 GMT 9 Aug 03

[Text] Knin, 9 Aug (TANJUG)—Croatian forces carried out a strong artillery attack on Gracac between 0900 and 1000 hours today. Deputy commander of the Serbian army of Krajina Col Kosta Novakovic has stated that exclusively civilian targets came under fire from long-range artillery and howitzers.

There is as yet no information about material damage or harm to, or casualties among, the civilian population.

Unidentified Aircraft Violate Air Space 8 Aug

LD0908094693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] The Republic of Croatia's air space was violated six times in the eastern Slavonia region yesterday between 2100 and 2330, a Ministry of Defense statement reported today. The statement does not identify the aircraft involved nor does it give details of which direction they came from. There is no information on whether or not the antiaircraft defences were activated.

UN General Says Erdut Agreement Still Valid

LD0808201593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1944 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Knin, Aug 8 (TANJUG)—Chief of the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] observer mission General Bo Pellnaes stated on Sunday [8 August] that the position of the United Nations was clear and that the Erdut Agreement between the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) and Croatia was still valid, until some other accord was reached it was from this point of view that the U.N. was now acting although the same obviously could not be told for Croatia's official position, Gen. Pellnaes told newsmen in Knin after meeting the RSK Army representatives.

Reviewed at this meeting was the possible revival of an RSK-Croatia negotiations process presently jeopardized by Croatia's refusal to meet the terms in the Erdut Agreement which it even said was invalid for itself.

With the Erdut Agreement, Croatia obliged itself to pull back its forces in the RSK's south it had occupied in aggressions of January 22, 1993, and June 22, 1992. The deadline was extended twice, but Croatia failed to withdraw.

The RSK was set up in Serb-populated parts of Croatia in 1991 and now is an "UNPA" (U.N. Protected Area). It completely enforced the provisions in this agreement, allowing Croatia to re-open to traffic the Maslenica bridge and Zemunik Airport on July 18.

Gen. Pellnaes cautioned the negotiations have been deadlocked and what was essential in this moment of crisis was reassembling the conflicting Serb and Croatian sides at the conference table.

Gen. Pellnaes added that the entire U.N. apparatus was taking all steps for the parties to the conflict to resume talks, but he declined to specify.

Announcing that the current situation was worrying the UNPROFOR, Gen. Pellnaes stressed that he noted the Serbian side was again upholding the peace process and showing readiness to cooperate.

About the results of the talks with RSK Army representatives, Gen. Pellnaes would inform co-chairman of the conference on former Yugoslavia Thorvald Stoltenberg and UNPROFOR Commander for the former Yugoslavia General Jean Cot.

Granic Warns UNPROFOR Mandate Could Be Withdrawn

LD0808104193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Mate Granic, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Croatia, has had talks in Brussels with Hans van den Broek, EC commissioner for foreign policy. Minister Granic told Van den Broek that Croatia is continuing to request that UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] implement Security Council resolutions 802 and 847 as consistently as possible, or withdraw.

If by the end of September no result has been achieved, Croatia, Granic stressed, will seek the termination of the mandate of the protection forces.

Minister Granic believes there is hope for the Geneva talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, but he said that the world must help to ensure that what is agreed is also implemented.

Party of Rights Suspends Chairman

LD0708210493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] The main conclusions of a convention of the Croatian Party of Rights, which was held in Kutina today, are the decision to hold an extraordinary assembly of the Croatian Party of Rights on 11 September and the suspension of the party chairman, Dobroslav Paraga, pending disciplinary proceedings.

Despite the fact that Dobroslav Paraga was invited to the convention he failed to turn up. The session was attended by over 80 percent of those invited, deputy chairman Ante Djapic said. A session of the main committee of the Croatian Party of Rights is to be held in Zadar on 4 September. This is a proof that the Croatian Party of Rights is not only Zagreb's Starcevicev Dom [party headquarters in Zagreb], but also the entire Croatian homeland, Djapic said.

Federal

Lilic Hopes Efforts Lead to Lifting of Sanctions

LD0808141293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1348 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 8 (TANJUG)— Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic said on Sunday [8 August] he hoped the international community would recognize the maximum efforts invested by Yugoslavia for seeking a political settlement of the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and lift the unjust sanctions against it.

The U.N. Security Council introduced comprehensive sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in May last year over its alleged involvement in the Bosnian civil war.

'Placing an entire nation and state under total isolation and such international pressure for something which is happening outside the borders of that state is unprecedented in modern political history,' Lilic told TANJUG.

'We are not in a position to resolve the Bosnian problem all by ourselves. Yugoslavia did what it could. It has invested maximum efforts for a speedier political settlement. The world has not realized it so far, but it is finally beginning to comprehend the gravity of its decision to place us under total isolation,' he emphasized.

Describing the emerging change in the world public opinion as 'exceptionally important', Lilic said he hoped this was the first major step towards a gradual normalization of Yugoslavia's relations with the world and lifting of the sanctions.

'All that happened in the process of disintegration of the former Yugoslav Federation—from recognizing the secession of some federal units to introducing sanctions against others—points to the unprincipled and controversial attitude of the international community towards the Yugoslav crisis as a whole,' he said.

Noting that Yugoslavia's neighbours were also hard hit by the sanctions, Lilic said the damage was so great that it was often impossible to assess it with the help of statistics alone because the embargo had hampered their market positions, reduced the competitiveness of their economies and boosted unemployment.

Regardless of the negative effects on economic cooperation with the neighbouring countries, the sanctions have not impaired Yugoslavia's economic relations with them, he said.

Urging a revival of the Yugoslav economy even in the conditions of the total economic embargo, Lilic said that curbing hyperinflation remained the priority for the Yugoslav Government which, he said, would introduce new measures already next week aimed at restoring order on the market.

Retail prices in Yugoslavia increased by a record 400 percent in July alone.

Kontic Seeks Lifting of UN Sanctions

LD0608174993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1703 GMT 6 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, August 6 (TANJUG)—Prime Minister Radoje Kontic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) has requested of U.N. Security Council President Madleine Albright that the Council take urgent steps to lift the sanctions introduced against F.R.Y., since it has proved its commitment to a policy of peace and cooperation through the efforts to contribute to the ending of the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the letter sent to Albright, Kontic asked that, until the sanctions are lifted, the Council approve priority humanitarian imports to Yugoslavia, give its consent that the frozen Yugoslav assets abroad be unblocked, and permit Yugoslavia to import specific products.

The U.N. Security Council on May 30 of last year introduced comprehensive sanctions against the F.R.Y., accusing it of aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina although there were no members of the Army of Yugoslavia in that former Yugoslav republic and the three constituent peoples—Muslims, Serbs and Croats—were engaged in a war there.

Kontic said the sanctions had proved to be unfounded and unjustified and they could not have and had not secured lasting and equitable peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Yugoslav prime minister said the sanctions had proved to be a collective punishment of a people, with serious long-term economic, demographic, health, social and developmental consequences for the country, its people and South-Eastern Europe as a whole.

Kontic said that, until the sanctions are lifted, Yugoslavia must seek ways and means of providing at least the most basic requirements in medicaments, food, electricity and fuels for its population and the around 850,000 refugees. The Yugoslav prime minister expressed concern at the rejection of Yugoslavia's humanitarian requests or their delayed consideration.

"The intentional refusal to aid those whose lives are in danger is a violation of the U.N. Charter and other international legal acts," Kontic said, criticizing the blocking of the work of the U.N. Sanctions Committee by Islamic countries. He urged the Council to approve priority humanitarian imports to Yugoslavia, for which

permits would unconditionally be issued by the sanctions committee and which would be controlled in cooperation with international organizations.

The Yugoslav prime minister recalled that the sanctions committee had approved no imports whatsoever to Yugoslavia in over a year. He said the country's foreign-currency reserves had been exhausted and recommended that the Council permit Yugoslavia to export specific products so that it could finance humanitarian imports. He specified that the value of the exports stand at half the value of the humanitarian imports. The remaining 50 percent of the humanitarian imports would be covered in the following manner—35 percent with assets abroad which have been frozen and 15 percent with aid from international, governmental and non-governmental humanitarian organizations and institutions.

Kontic requested that the Council approve the frozen Yugoslav assets to be used for the payment of the humanitarian imports and not to make this conditional on imports having to be made from particular countries. The Yugoslav prime minister warned that, otherwise, the international community could bear full responsibility for endangering the health and lives of citizens of Yugoslavia.

Jovanovic Views Threat of Air Strikes

AU0708142893 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Statement by FRY Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic on possible U.S. air strikes against Serb positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Belgrade on 7 August—recorded]

[Text] Well, these threats primarily have an extremely strong tactical dimension. They are first of all tactically in the service of policy and only then are they an announcement of a real military action. Of course, one cannot exclude the latter, but the authors of the idea have created [word indistinct]. Of course, it depends on the developments whether the latter can replace the former. That is why it is very important that our side, that is, the Serbs in Bosnia comply strictly with the stipulations of the cease-fire, that they do not fall for provocations, but restrict themselves to legitimate actions of self-defense when necessary. It is important that they hand over these two mountains [Bjelasnica and Igman] to UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Forces], particularly as the two mountains are supposed to be part of the Muslim republic anyway, according to the proposal to which our side agreed. At the same time, they should do nothing to provide an excuse for claims that the humanitarian plan cannot function because of the alleged Serbian obstacles.

These three things are the minimum that has to be done, particularly as it does not represent any kind of a sacrifice. It is in compliance with the things discussed, and things that want to be achieved to disarm the protagonists of military action. However, even if something beyond that is done, we are still not absolutely sure that the peace process will not continue to be obstructed by Izetbegovic and the outside factors. We still do not know whether the aim is to get as many concessions as possible from the Serbs in Bosnia in the territorial aspect through these tactical and other threats, and to have this future Muslim republic in this loose confederation—or if it is not achieved—as the dominating factor, or whether the intent is to create complications to delay the solution to the problem and to gain time to see what else the sanctions can do to Yugoslavia for the achievement of the final aims on our side. [sentence as heard]

However, neither of these is a reason for us to reduce our peace efforts. On the contrary, they are more of a reason to increase the efforts, as peace is still the most powerful weapon that we, and others who favor peace, have against those who do not want peace. What is new in this situation, and which did not exist in the earlier military threats we discussed here before, is that the European public, particularly the EC, is very interested this time in ending the war in Bosnia and establishing peace by the end of this month or very soon.

UNHCR Official: Next Winter Critical for Refugees

LD0608170093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1354 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, August 6 (TANJUG)—The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will need substantial additional means for the accommodation of refugees in winter months, Special UNHCR Envoy to the former Yugoslavia Nicholas Morris told TANJUG on Friday [6 August].

About 3.5 million people, according to UNHCR, have been displaced in the former Yugoslavia. There are currently about 650,000 refugees from the former Yugoslav Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, i.e. Serbia and Montenegro.

Morris said it was still too early to speak about the concrete needs of the refugees in winter and that everything depended on the political resolution of the conflict.

What will happen to the population and refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina this winter will depend on whether they will be regularly supplied with electricity and gas, according to Morris.

Families in Serbia and Montenegro who received refugees will need help, Morris said.

According to the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, about 94 percent of the refugees in the two republics are placed with families.

Morris said that the UNHCR had not realized aid programs for families who received refugees, but that it

certainly had to be done here because family placement was a much better temporary solution than accommodation in collective centers.

Serbia

Milosevic, Mitsotakis Hold News Conference

AU0608205693 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Report by an unidentified correspondent on the news conference held by Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, and Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis in Belgrade on 6 August—recorded; Mitsotakis in Greek with consecutive and simultaneous translation into Serbo-Croatian]

[Text] [Milosevic] It is my pleasure to greet our friend, Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis, who is paying a friendly visit here today.

We have talked about our mutual relations and ways to further them, as well as all essential issues concerning solutions to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia in which, and I would like to stress this in particular, Greece, and particularly the Greek prime minister, are playing a very constructive and positive role.

We are interested in having the Geneva negotiations concerning the hotbed of the Yugoslav crisis successfully brought to an end as soon as possible.

It is our assessment that all prerequisites have been created for the talks to successfully continue at the beginning of next week. It is very important that all three sides have agreed on the future solution of the three republics within the union of the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, that an agreement on a cease-fire has been reached, and that it is possible to solve the remaining open questions on the basis of an equal respect for all three sides' interests and the effort to equally affirm the interests of all three sides.

By reaching a solution that would equally protect and affirm the interests of all three sides, a basis will be created for a lasting and just peace. This is our approach to the solution of the crisis and I am very glad that in this approach we enjoy such a strong support by the Greek people, the Greek Government, and the Greek prime minister. Once again, I greet my esteemed guest and friend.

[Mitsotakis] I would like to express my joy that I was once again given the opportunity to communicate with President Milosevic. We talked in general about the relations between our countries, countries that are friends. We talked about the course of the problem of the former Yugoslavia and, particularly, the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Greece believes that it is necessary to find a peaceful solution and we believe that a peaceful solution can be achieved with the efforts exerted by the two cochairmen in Geneva.

The question of Bosnia is going through a difficult stage at the moment. However, we believe that with goodwill and confidence, this question can be solved with respect for the three communities' interests, as Mr. President has just pointed out. In this effort to attain peace, my country and I personally are going to continue to invest everything that we can with a view to helping reach the desired solution.

I believe that today I can express hope that a peaceful solution to the Bosnian problem is in the offing. I would like everything to go well.

[Unidentified correspondent] Correspondents want to know if Prime Minister Mitsotakis' visit is connected to his recent contacts with the representatives of the United States.

[Mitsotakis] Greece has been discussing and examining the problem of the former Yugoslavia, as well as the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina with all our friends, with European countries, and, certainly, with representatives of the United States.

It is fully natural that in today's talks I informed Mr. Milosevic about the stances of these sides.

[Unidentified correspondent] Responding to our question on the scope of today's talks, President Milosevic said the following:

[Milosevic] As is well known, Greece plays quite a constructive role and has a very productive and objective approach toward solving the Yugoslav crisis. The support that the Greek Government and the Greek prime minister have extended toward a peaceful and just solution to the Yugoslav crisis is nothing new and can be seen from the very beginning of the crisis. In this respect, Mr. Mitsotakis' visit is simply an affirmation of such an approach, which favors a lasting and just peace on the basis of all three sides' interests. In the entire array of efforts made toward finding a military or peaceful solution to the crisis, Greece has shown with each of its actions that it has always been in favor of a peaceful solution to the crisis. In this respect, today's visit by Prime Minister Mitsotakis confirms this kind of approach toward a peaceful solution to the crisis and, therefore, is greatly significant in that it is oriented toward peace.

[Unidentified correspondent] We asked Prime Minister Mitsotakis whether he had brought any message by the Geneva Conference cochairmen, considering some headlines in the Athens press.

[Mitsotakis] As I just pointed out, I would like to say that I am in a constant contact with Mr. Owen, or rather the cochairmen of the Geneva conference, and, naturally, I talked with President Milosevic about specific questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] A Belgrade Radio correspondent wanted to know if Greece, being a proven friend of Yugoslavia and an EC member, manages to convey everything that is really happening in Yugoslavia because, as he put it, these people do not deserve the sanctions.

[Mitsotakis] Greece has never had any difficulties, nor has it ever hesitated to present its opinion of the problem of Yugoslavia and Serbia in its contacts with other countries. We are doing this publicly and even more so in individual contacts with our European partners.

As you know, Greece is an EC member and one of the 12 members. There is another additional reason for this, and that is that the problem exists in our neighborhood and that we as neighbors know the problem much better. We, therefore, have reason to talk about this and to play the role that belongs to us in Europe to the very end. This is particularly the case, because our county is part of the so-called troika and because we are going to take up the chairmanship at the beginning of January.

Milosevic-Mitsotakis Meeting 'Eliminated' Air Strike Option

LD0708203893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2011 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, August 7 (TANJUG)—The New York reporter of the Greek MACEDONIAN PRESS AGENCY (MPA) on Saturday [7 August] said the international community believed the meeting between Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis and President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia in Belgrade on Friday had eliminated "the possibility of aerial attacks against Serbia."

The MPA said U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had again reiterated at a news conference on Friday that he was the only one who had the right to approve air strikes against Serbs.

Milosevic and Mitsotakis discussed in Belgrade the elimination of the obstacles standing in the way of a resumption of the Geneva peace talks on the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The talks have been deadlocked by obstructions on the part of Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic, who has been encouraged by the U.S. and NATO threats that they will launch air strikes against positions of Bosnian Serbs.

The MPA said diplomatic sources at the New York U.N. headquarters could not understand why U.S. media were not saying anything abmut the mediating role played by Greece in the efforts to resolve the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis and insisted that the U.S. predictions and assessments concerning possible military intervention were unrealistic, especially after the latest meeting between Mitsotakis and Milosevic.

The MAP said the NEW YORK TIMES had published an article under the headline "Is NATO'S Threat a Real One," saying that Spain, Italy, Britain, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark had lent conditional support to the NATO decision, whereas Canada, Portugal, France and Greece had strongly opposed any kind of military intervention against Serbs.

NATO will discuss concrete plans for a military operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Monday, the same day the Geneva talks on the resolution of the crisis are to resume.

Seselj Threatens To Attack UNPROFOR, U.S. Allies

AU0608155993 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 6 Aug 93 p 5

[Report by M. Mikuljanac: "If We Cannot Go to America, We Can Strike UNPROFOR"]

[Text] Belgrade—"If the war in Bosnia continues, the Serbs will take more territories and nobody had better imagine that they will then return them. As after any other war, the separation will be carried out along the lines of the existing fronts," Vojislav Seselj, president of the Serbian Radical Party, said at a press conference yesterday [5 August].

Commenting on U.S. threats to bomb Serbian positions, Seselj stated that the Americans do not want peace in the Balkans, but are trying to prolong the war. "Their objective is to exhaust all the political and military factors in the Balkans, in order to accomplish their long-termed interests more easily," Seselj claimed.

The Radicals hold the view that the danger of U.S. bombing exists, but they do not believe that the United States will engage in such action because of the unpleasant experiences in Vietnam.

"We, the Serbs, have nothing to lose. If they attack us, we shall fight to the end, to the last man. We must be ready to fight back, and since we cannot go to the United States, we can strike at UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], at the Croats, at the Muslims, and at all the U.S. allies within range. Perhaps we will not shoot down many U.S. planes, but we shall not miss a single blue helmet," Seselj said.

Commenting on the situation in Yugoslavia, the leader of the Serbian Radical Party stated that neither the Federal nor the Republic Governments have made any good moves in the socioeconomic sphere. "The struggle against crime is essential, especially against mafia crime, which is being organized by certain state and party officials. That is now the case in all the Serbian countries," Seselj concluded.

Kosovo

Rugova Accuses Serbia of Trying To Provoke Terrorism

AU0608204493 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Telephone report by Mehmet Haziri from Pristina]

[Text] With the recent repression against Albanians, Serbia wants and is aiming to provoke terrorism in Kosovo, Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosovo, stressed at a news conference.

He illustrated this by referring to the scale of the repression against the Albanian population after the incidents in Prizren, Peje, and Pudujeve in which, under mysterious circumstances, several Serbian policemen were wounded, serving as a pretext for violence. President Rugova said that the arrests and maltreatment of Albanian activists of other parties, as well as of former political prisoners, are being carried out in order to impede the work of the political parties and other Albanian associations and thus create conflict and terrorism in Kosovo, something that we will not allow. The road of patience that we have chosen is long and hard, but certain to yield results, and our people know this, Rugova stressed.

From the political and organizational point of view, we are keeping the situation in Kosovo under control and will continue to strive to avoid conflict in this area, something that Serbia wants.

After mentioning the tough economic situation in Kosovo as a result of the destructive actions of the occupier, President Rugova asked the international community to undertake immediate measures to stop the repression and urgently place Kosovo under UN protection before it is too late.

Commenting on the note from the self-styled Yugoslavia, in which Albania is accused of causing border incidents, Rugova said that such accusations have nothing to do with the truth, but with this act, Yugoslavia, in its known style, aims to close the border with Albania, something that will not happen at this time of democratic developments and integration in Europe.

President Rugova commented on talks with the Security Council on the possible return of the CSCE observers to Kosovo, Sandzak, and Vojvodina, and the statement by EC representative Willy Klep [as heard] describing Kosovo as the first step, and saying that the Kosovo issue should be examined at a higher level so as to prevent a conflict there, which would have consequences for the whole region.

Answering a reporter's question as to how he sees the Albanian Socialist Party's recent attempts to hold rallies, President Rugova said that this party should not politicize the question of the arrest of its chairman Fatos Nano, because every individual and holder of political or state office who misuses it should be held to account before a court of justice. The Albanian Socialist Party should make efforts to renew its ranks so as to serve the development and strengthening of democracy.

To a question as to whether there are reports that the Commissariat for Refugees in Kosovo is helping the recolonization of Kosovo, President Rugova said that we enjoy good cooperation with the Commissariat. However, since the very beginning, we have called for their attention in such a way as not to exploit the people's calamity with war traumas for our own unclear aims.

President Rugova also answered many other reporters' questions.

Border Patrol Kills Albanian Soldier

LD0708110193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0957 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, 7 Aug (TANJUG)—The Information Service of the Third Army today reported that on 6 August a grave border incident took place in the area of the Morina border outpost on the Yugoslav-Albanian border.

The incident took place after a group of three Albanian soldiers and seven armed civilians crossed into Yugoslav territory and set up an ambush. At 1129 they opened fire at a three-man Yugoslav Army patrol. The soldiers returned fire but were unable to extricate themselves from the ambush because of the unfavorable lay of terrain. Some soldiers from neighboring border outposts were deployed to break the blockade. The blockade was lifted successfully at 1500.

In the course of lifting the blockade one member of Albania's armed forces was killed; there were no casualties on the Yugoslav side. Following this incident and a series of other border incidents, a note of sharp protest has been lodged with the Albanian side.